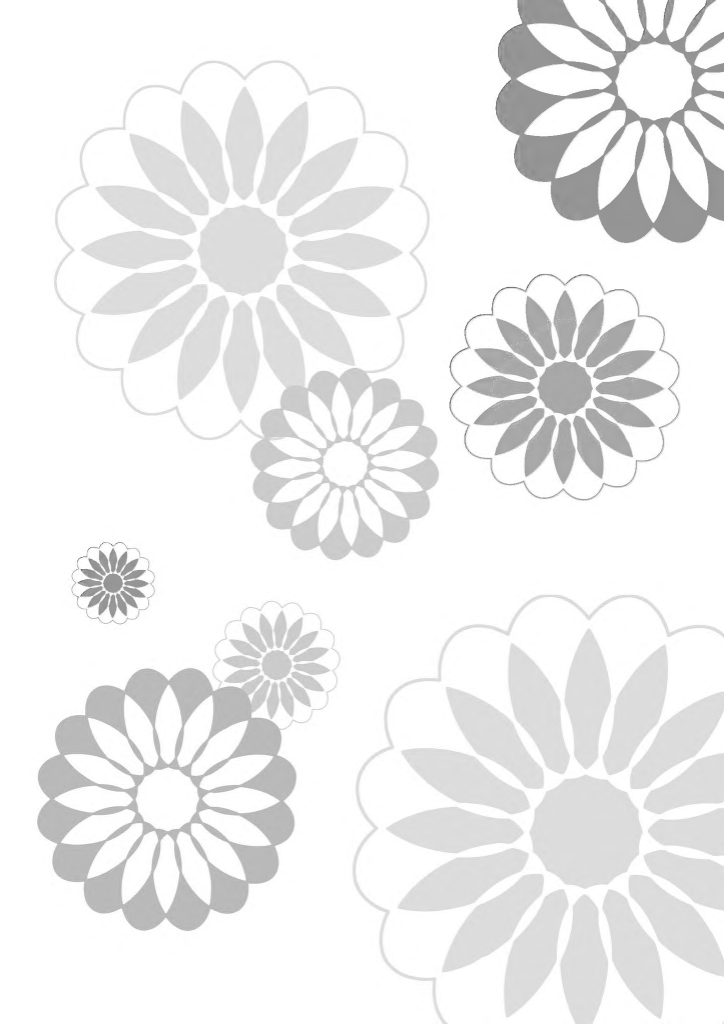
Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さまっ

8

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 8

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Toren Smith

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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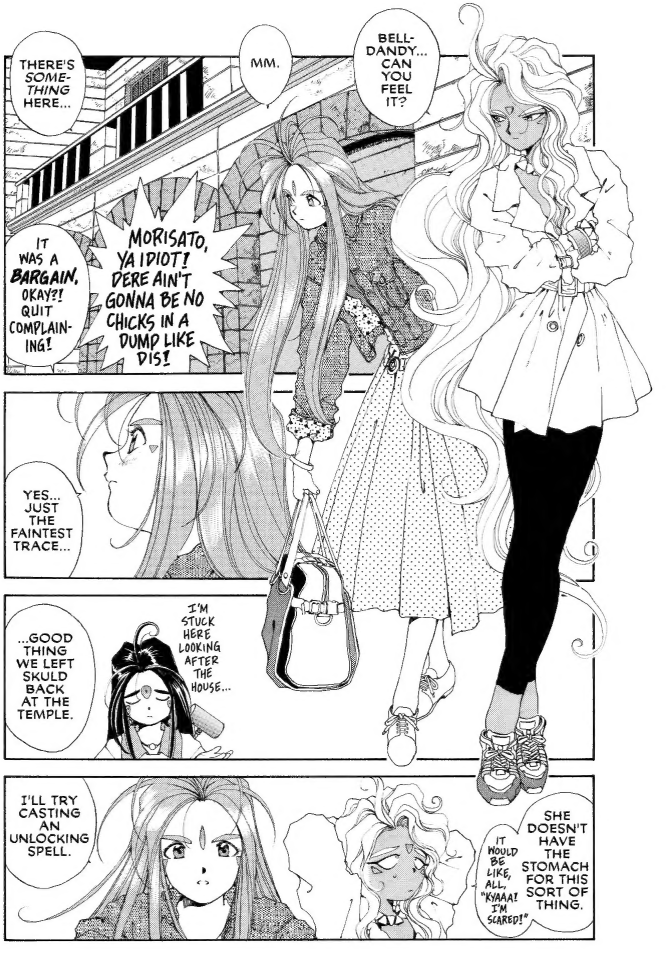
IT WAS TIME FOR THE MOTOR CLUB'S ANNUAL "SUMMER ENDURANCE TRAINING CAMP."
...SO I MANAGED TO GET US A WEEK THERE... CHEAP.
Welcome to The Hond Lodge
I'D HEARD THAT A FRIEND OF MY GRANDFATHER STILL RAN AN OLD-FASHIONED MOUNTAIN RESORT...
"THIS IS THE KIND OF PLACE..." SAID URD, "...WHERE SPIRITS DWELL."
IT WAS PERCHED ON THE EDGE OF A SMALL ALPINE LAKE, SURROUNDED BY ASPEN TREES.
UH, YEAH, I THINK SO.
IS... DIS DA PLACE, MORI-SATO?

CHAPTER 48

The Forgotten Promise

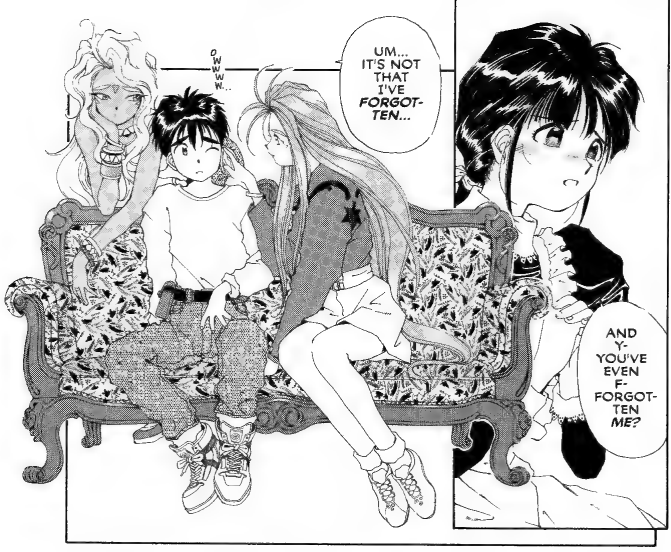

THERE'S SOME-THING HERE...
MM.
BELL-DANDY... CAN YOU FEEL IT?
IT WAS A BARGAIN, OKAY?! QUIT COMPLAIN-ING!
MORISATO, YA IDIOT! DERE AIN'T GONNA BE NO CHICKS IN A DUMP LIKE DIS!
YES... JUST THE FAINTEST TRACE...
...GOOD THING WE LEFT SKULD BACK AT THE TEMPLE.
I'M STUCK HERE LOOKING AFTER THE HOUSE...
I'LL TRY CASTING AN UNLOCKING SPELL.
IT WOULD BE LIKE, ALL, "KYAAA! I'M SCARED!"
SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THIS SORT OF THING.

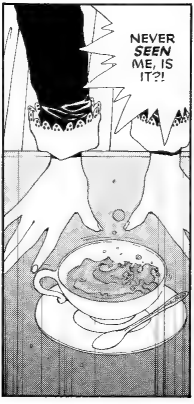
IT'S ALREADY OPEN ...?
KGYAK
SKREEEEEEEEEK
HA! IF YOU'RE A DEMON, URD'S SPECIAL EXORCISM PROGRAM WILL--
gasp
--UM, DESTROY YOU... YEAH...
FSST

GOOD AFTER-NOON!
AND WELCOME TO THE HONDA LODGE!
I'M THE TEMPORARY HOUSEKEEPER, CHIEKO HONDA... PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
ack?
...PLEASED TO MEET YOU, TOO.
AH...

?!
AH?
SO WHO IS SHE?
...BUT THEY TOLD ME THE PLACE WOULD BE EMPTY.
UH... YEAH... SURE...
DID I SAY DERE WOULD BE NO CHICKS? MY APOLOGIES, MORISATO!
I KNEW IT!
I KNEW YOU'D FINALLY REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE!
I'M SO HAPPY!
OH!

HUH? BUT I DIDN'T-- OW!
ALWAYS BOGARTIN' DA BABES!
UH... WHAT?
MORI-SATO!
...YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE?
REALLY ...?


OWWW..
UM... IT'S NOT THAT I'VE FORGOT-TEN...
AND Y- YOU'VE EVEN F- FORGOT-TEN ME?


NEVER SEEN ME, IS IT?!

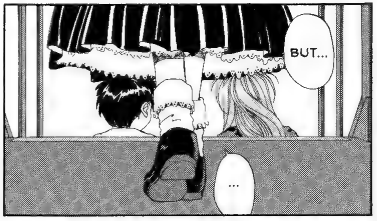
OH! I'M SORRY, DEAR.
OW WATCH IT BELTPANDY-- THAT STUFF STINGS!
...IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE...

WHO, ME? heh heh
WELL, WELL-- AREN'T YOU SOMETHING! I NEVER DREAMED YOU HAD IT IN YOU TO KEEP TWO BABES ON A STRING.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MADAM, BUT HE MADE A PROMISE TO ME AGES BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG!
WELL, THE CAMERA'S CERTAINLY SEEN ME... AND YOU, TOGETHER!
August 12, 1930: At the Honda Resort with Hotaru-No-Suke
SO YOU HAD BETTER JUST KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY HOTARU-NO-SUKE!
OH, SHUT UP, URD.
SORRY, KID...YOUR GRAND-FATHER WAS WAY BETTER LOOK-ING.
WOW... MY DAD ALWAYS DID SAY I LOOKED LIKE HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, BUT...
THAT WAS MY GRAND-FATHER'S NAME.
B-BUT...

...NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE.
I *THOUGHT* SO...
THIS PICTURE'S FROM *1930?!*
WAIT A SEC...
NOT BAD FOR AN OLD LADY, AM I?
...THEN HOW OLD *ARE*...
UP NEXT! THE GREAT OTAKI SINGS *YOUR OLD FAVORITE AND MINE*--THE *N.I.T. MOTOR CLUB ANTHEM!*

RISKING OUR LIFE & FOUR WHEELS OF FUN INWARD WE CHARGE TO
SALUTE!
A SHINNENTAI?!
clap clap clap
HA, HA!
IT'S TOO MOVING! ;sob;
NO... IT'S NOT QUITE LIKE THAT.
SO SHE'S A G-G-GHOST?!
...THEIR DESIRE ITSELF CAN TAKE FORM AND REMAIN BEHIND... AS A SHINNENTAI.
YES. IT MEANS A MANIFESTATION OF WILL. WHEN A PERSON DIES WITH A STRONG DESIRE LEFT UNFULFILLED...

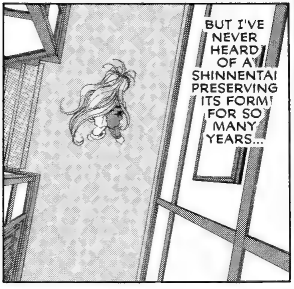

BUT...
...

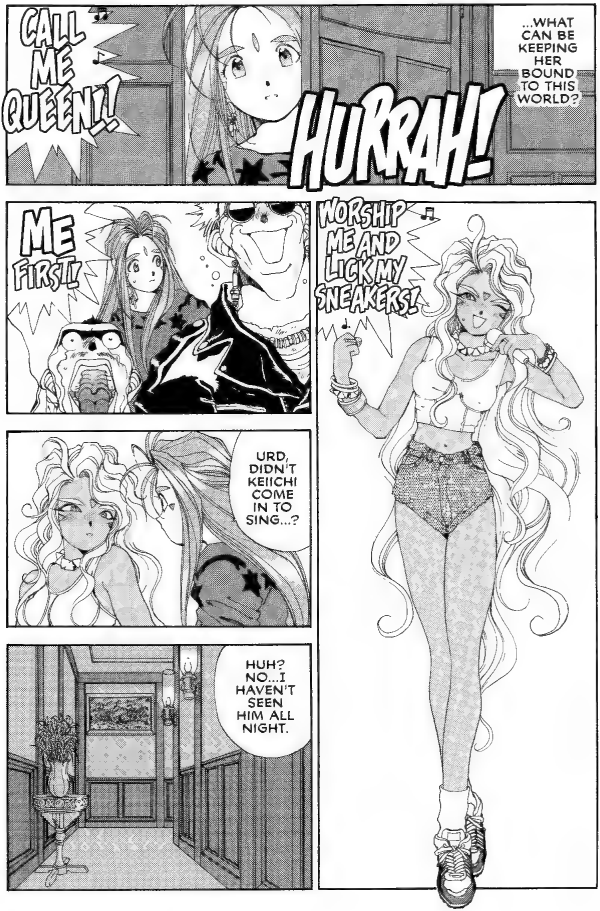
BUT A SHINNENTAI MANIFESTS AS AN ACTUAL PHYSICAL PRESENCE.
A GHOST IS JUST THE LINGERING WILL ITSELF, A SPIRIT PROJECTED INTO OUR PSYCHES.
THAT'S WHY YOU SEE ME IN THE MIRROR!

HA! FOUND YOU!
!!

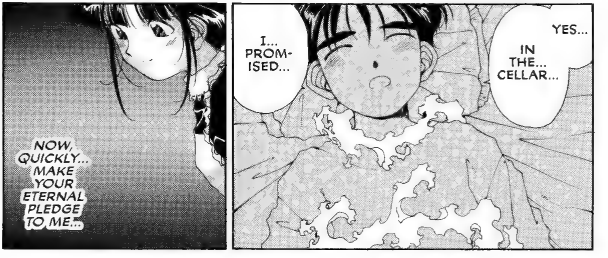
HEY!
HA HA HA!

EVERY-ONE'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU TO SING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
ER... I...


BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A SHINNENTAI PRESERVING ITS FORM FOR SO MANY YEARS...


CALL ME QUEEN!
HURRAH!
..WHAT CAN BE KEEPING HER BOUND TO THIS WORLD?
ME FIRST!
WORSHIP ME AND LICK MY SNEAKERS!
URD, DIDN'T KEIICHI COME IN TO SING...?
HUH? NO...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ALL NIGHT.

THERE... IN THE CELLAR... JUST YOU AND ME...
RIGHT? YOU MADE A PROMISE, YOU DID.
HEH, HEH... *NOW* YOU WILL REMEMBER...


NOW, QUICKLY... MAKE YOUR ETERNAL PLEDGE TO ME...
I... PROM-ISED...
YES... IN THE... CELLAR...

AH?!
BAM BAM
GET YOUR BUTT OUT HERE AND SING *NOW!*
KEIICHI! I *KNOW* YOU'RE IN THERE!! DON'T BE *ANTI-SOCIAL!*
NOW, *KEEP YOUR PROMISE...*
...YOU'RE TOO *LATE!* THOSE DOORS SHALL NEVER OPEN AGAIN!
HEH HEH...
N-*NO!* SHE *WOULDN'T!*
...SHE'S GOING TO TRY TO POSSESS HIM

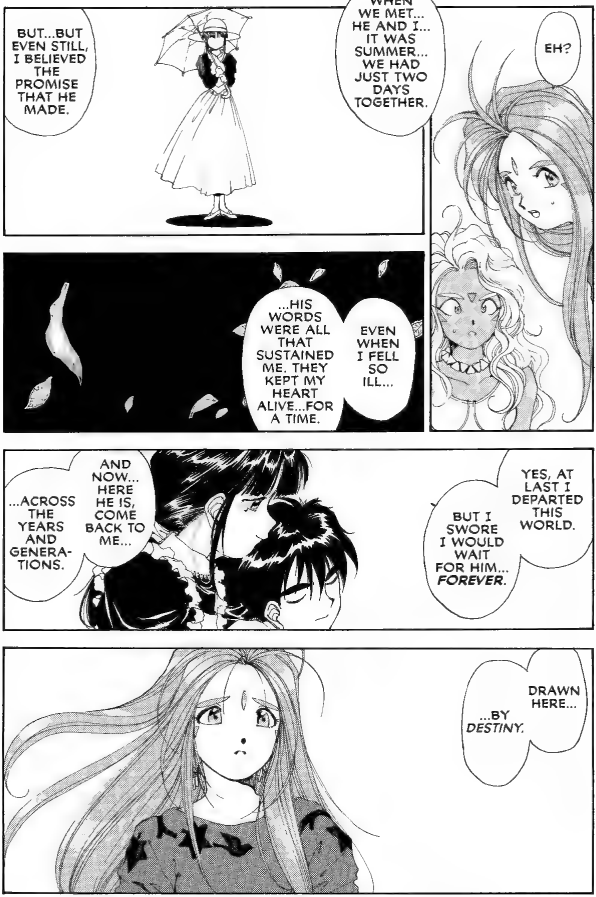
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE, THEN--
RRG! MY UNLOCKING SPELLS AREN'T WORKING!
...SHE'LL DO ANYTHING TO STEAL KEIICHI AWAY!
chakka chakka
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I...A SHINNENTAI EXISTS ONLY TO ATTAIN ITS DESIRE!
DON'T BE NAIVE, BELL-DANDY!
GRRRR
VRRRR!
HEH HEH
!!

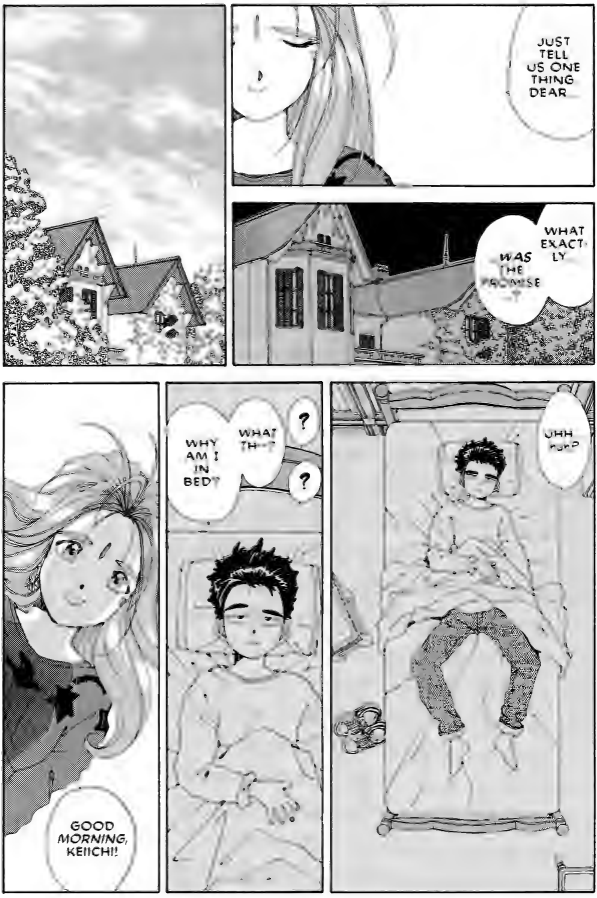
FSHH
FZZK
G-G-GHOSTS!!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
YES, TECHNICALLY, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A GHOST.
MY EXORCISM PROGRAM'S GONNA SEND YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG, GIRL!

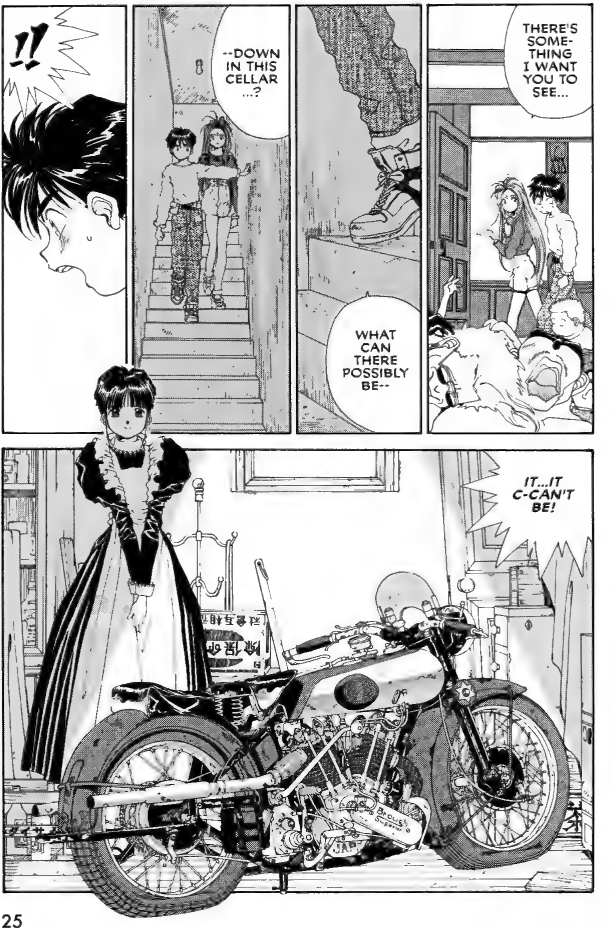
NO!
WHOOSH
HUH?!
IT DIDN'T WORK...
FZZK

UNTIL THEN I SHALL *NEVER* LET YOU GO!
NOW THEN, MY LOVE... FULFILL MY *HEART'S DESIRE!*
SHE'S A *SHINNENTAI*, NOT A *DEMON*, URD! YOUR EXORCISM PROGRAM'S *USELESS* AGAINST HER!
STOP! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT BOY'S *NOT* YOUR HOTARU-NO-SUKE!
HE'S...
HE'S...

HE'S MY KEIICHI !!
KSSHH
...
...THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM.


BUT...BUT EVEN STILL, I BELIEVED THE PROMISE THAT HE MADE.
WHEN WE MET... HE AND I... IT WAS SUMMER... WE HAD JUST TWO DAYS TOGETHER.
EH?
EVEN WHEN I FELL SO ILL...
...HIS WORDS WERE ALL THAT SUSTAINED ME. THEY KEPT MY HEART ALIVE...FOR A TIME.
...ACROSS THE YEARS AND GENERA-TIONS.
AND NOW... HERE HE IS, COME BACK TO ME...
BUT I SWORE I WOULD WAIT FOR HIM... *FOREVER*.
YES, AT LAST I DEPARTED THIS WORLD.
...BY *DESTINY*.
DRAWN HERE...

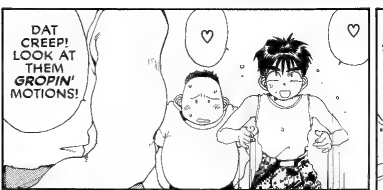

JUST TELL US ONE THING, DEAR
WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE PROMISE
UHH, HUH?
WHAT TH--?
?
?
WHY AM I IN BED?
GOOD MORNING, KEIICHI!!


!!
--DOWN IN THIS CELLAR ...?
WHAT CAN THERE POSSIBLY BE--
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT YOU TO SEE...
IT...IT C-CAN'T BE!

YOU LEFT IT HERE WHEN IT BROKE DOWN.
WHY, YOU LEFT IT HERE.
Brough Superior
...IT'S IN PERFECT SHAPE !!
LOOK AT IT...
IT'S THE ROLLS ROYCE OF MOTOR-CYCLES!
...A BROUGH SUPERIOR!
IT'S BEAUTI-FUL...
...WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
ONLY...
HUH?
AND IF YOU FIX IT, YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU, WHEREVER YOU WANT.

THAT WAS YOUR PROMISE TO ME.
--ONCE AROUND THE LAKE.
...WHEN IT'S READY, TAKE ME ON A RIDE--

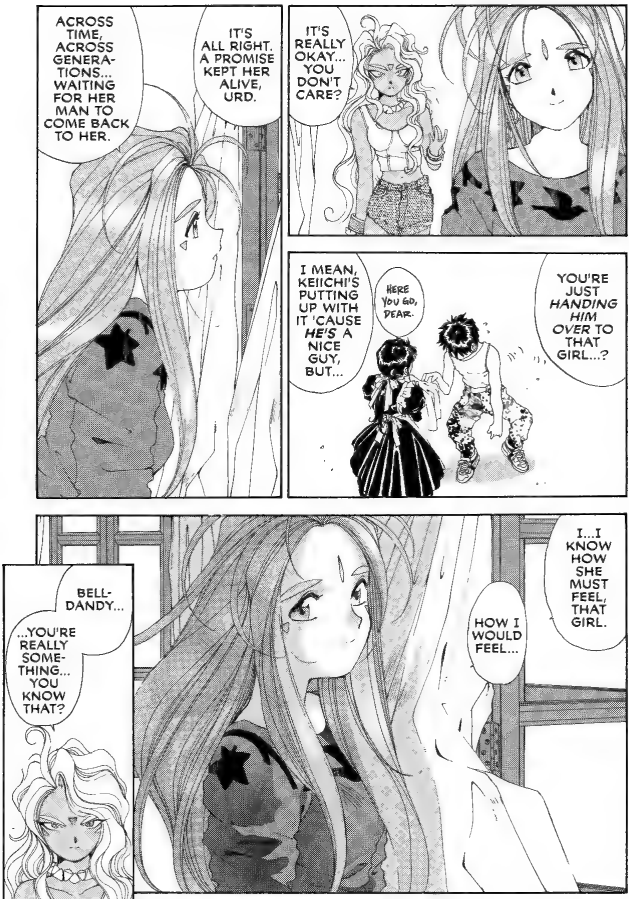
32!
NO SLACKING, YA LAZY SCUM!
IF YER GONNA RACE, YA NEED ENDUR-ANCE!


DAT CREEP! LOOK AT THEM GROPIN' MOTIONS!

...GRR!
MEBBE HE...
OR MEBBE...
WHAT WAS YUH DOIN' LAST NIGHT, MORI-SATO?!

MORISATO! FIFTY MORE-- JUST YOU!
AIEE!
why?

A BROUGH SUPERIOR! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON IT...
33!
34!


ACROSS TIME, ACROSS GENERATIONS... WAITING FOR HER MAN TO COME BACK TO HER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. A PROMISE KEPT HER ALIVE, URD.
IT'S REALLY OKAY... YOU DON'T CARE?
I MEAN, KEIICHI'S PUTTING UP WITH IT 'CAUSE *HE'S* A NICE GUY, BUT...
HERE YOU GO, DEAR.
YOU'RE JUST *HANDING HIM OVER* TO THAT GIRL...?
I...I KNOW HOW SHE MUST FEEL, THAT GIRL.
HOW I WOULD FEEL...
BELL-DANDY...
...YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING... YOU KNOW THAT?

SURE!
GO ASK OTAKI FOR A CD! AND A COIL.
THE MAGNE-TO'S TOTALLY GONE.
OH MAN... I THOUGHT SO.
LATER THAT NIGHT
NOW, BOYZ, DA STRIP SHOW!
EEK! TAMIYA! STOP!
C'MON, HASEGAWA! YOU TAKE 'EM OFF, TOO!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OH, NOTHING. I WAS JUST... ASKED.
bow
OTAKI? HE KEEPS THEM UNDER HIS JACKET.
GEEZ, WHERE'S HE GONNA GET BIKE PARTS WAY UP HERE ...?
WHAT FOR?
SURE, I GOT 'EM.
A CD! AND A COIL?
EEK!

YOU KNOW... TAMIYA WAS RIGHT.
BELL-DANDY... WHAT A WOMAN...
PAY! YOU'LL PAY!!
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT MORISATO PAY FOR HIS GOOD FORTUNE!
UNTIL FINALLY... ON THE LAST MORNING...
...WHILE THE NIGHTS WERE DEDICATED TO REPAIRING THE BROUGH.
AND THUS, DURING THE DAY THE BRUTAL (OR AS TAMIYA AND OTAKI WOULD PUT IT, "EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE") TRAINING DRAGGED ON...
KSHINK
BRMBBBB
I'M ALMOST DONE...
MORISATO! FIVE MORE KM FOR YOU, SLACKER!
I'M ALMOST DEAD...

VRMBBOMMBB
SO... ARE YOU READY?
HAVE A NICE DRIVE, KEIICHI...
MM.
WELL, THERE THEY GO.
BRRMMMMBB
"...AND YOU TOO, CHIEKO."

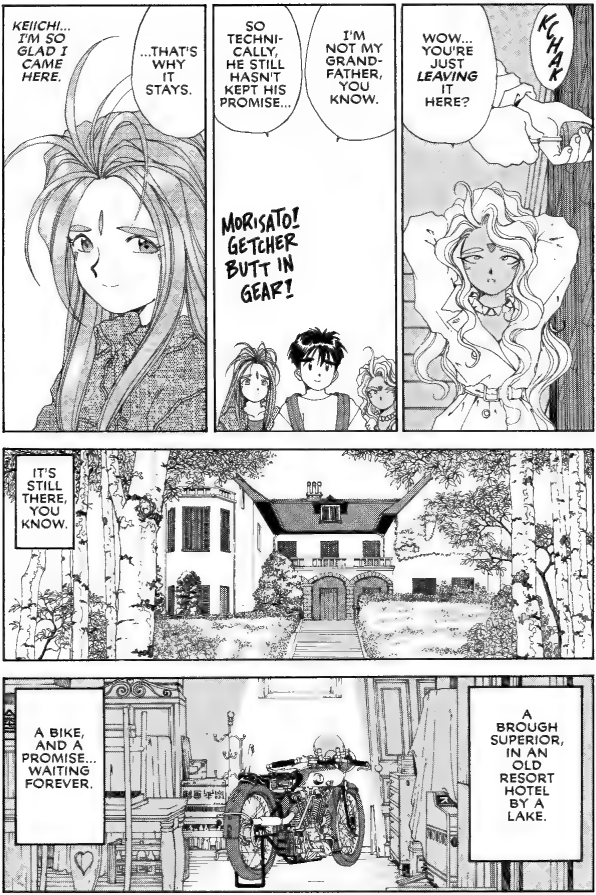
THE WIND RUSHING PAST... THE MURMURS OF THE ENGINE...
THIS RIVER OF GREEN RUSHING TOWARD ME, AND RUSHING AWAY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK TO SHOW ME...MY ONLY LOVE...?
...IS THIS WONDERFUL FEELING WHAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME, HOTARU-NO-SUKE...?
MY GRAND-FATHER! HE LEFT HIS BIKE HERE...HE COULDN'T BEAR TO EVER COME BACK...
HM?
SAY, CHIEKO!
...BECAUSE HE'D HEARD THE NEWS... THAT YOU HAD DIED, CHIEKO!

EH?! AL-READY?
HERE'S THE LAST CORNER... WE'LL BE BACK AT THE LODGE IN A MINUTE.
...OTHER-WISE, HOW COULD HE SO WELL UNDER-STAND YOUR HEART...?
THIS BOY... HE'S TRULY YOUR GRAND-SON, HOTARU-NO-SUKE...
YES... I SEE IT NOW...
HE DIDN'T KNOW YOUR SPIRIT LINGERED ON...
....
SO... ONE MORE TIME AROUND?
BUT...
SOG
...ONCE IS FINE.
N-NO...
HUH ?!
...I JUST REMEM-BERED...
...THAT I MADE A PROMISE, TOO.

"THANK YOU"...

...AND SUDDENLY, I WAS RIDING BACK TO THE LODGE ALONE.

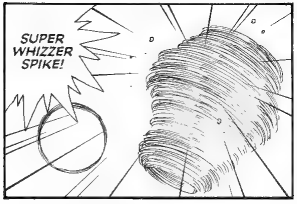
I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD THOSE WORDS, FADING AWAY...

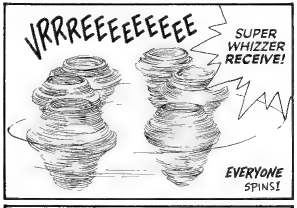

KEIICHI... I'M SO GLAD I CAME HERE.
...THAT'S WHY IT STAYS.
SO TECHNICALLY, HE STILL HASN'T KEPT HIS PROMISE...
I'M NOT MY GRANDFATHER, YOU KNOW.
MORISATO! GETCHER BUTT IN GEAR!
WOW... YOU'RE JUST LEAVING IT HERE?
KCHAK
IT'S STILL THERE, YOU KNOW.
A BIKE, AND A PROMISE... WAITING FOREVER.
A BROUGH SUPERIOR, IN AN OLD RESORT HOTEL BY A LAKE.

THE ADVENTURES OF MINI-URD

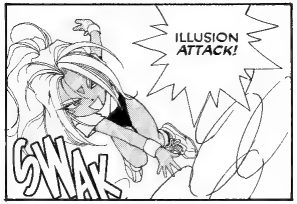
Now with added MINI-SKULD!

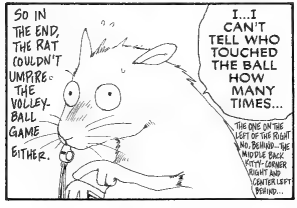
ATTACKING FURIES



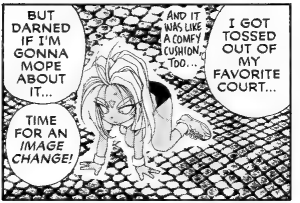


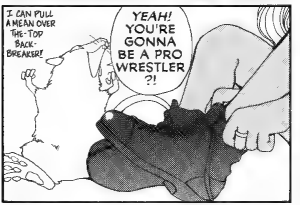
SUPER SPIKE!

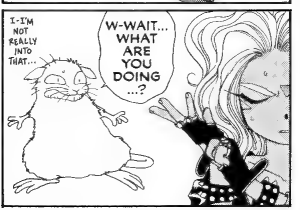


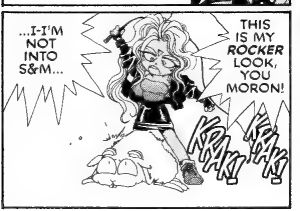

SO IN THE END, THE RAT COULDN'T UMPIRE THE VOLLEY-BALL GAME EITHER.
I...I CAN'T TELL WHO TOUCHED THE BALL HOW MANY TIMES...
THE ONE ON THE LEFT OF THE RIGHT NO, BEHIND... THE MIDDLE BACK KITTY-CORNER RIGHT AND KITTY-CORNER LEFT BEHIND...

AN IDOL APPEARS— INTRODUCING THE NEW URD!

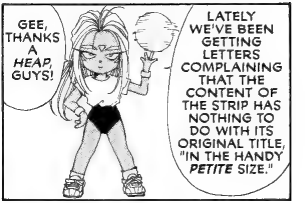

BUT DARNED IF I'M GONNA MOPE ABOUT IT...
AND IT WAS LIKE A COMFY CUSHION, TOO...
I GOT TOSSED OUT OF MY FAVORITE COURT...
TIME FOR AN *IMAGE CHANGE!*

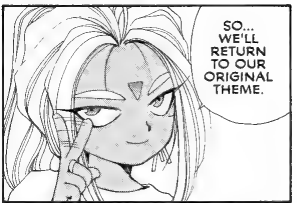


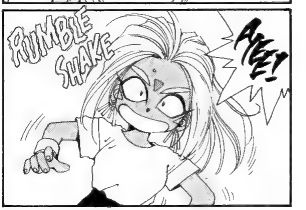


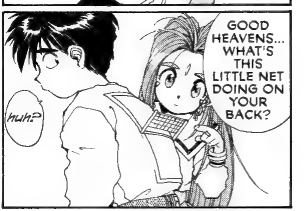


IT HAS ITS ADVANTAGES


GEE, THANKS A *HEAP*, GUYS!
LATELY WE'VE BEEN GETTING LETTERS COMPLAINING THAT THE CONTENT OF THE STRIP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ITS ORIGINAL TITLE, "IN THE HANDY *PETITE* SIZE."







IT'S THE NON-STOP ROCK SHOW!

WHO'S A PERFECT GODDESS? JUST LOOK AT ME-EEE...
UP NEXT! URD SINGS, "CALL ME GODDESS" !!!
HI, EVERY-BODY! WELCOME TO THE ROCK SHOW!
THE JUDGE WHO ONLY DANCES FOR THE ROCKIN' BEAT IS ON HER FEET!
OH! SHE'S DANCING-- MARA IS DANCING!
AND NOW, FOR OUR FIRST CONTESTANT...
...NOT WITH OUR CHAMP URD AROUND!
ROCK AND ROLL WILL NEVER DIE...
HELP MEEE!
ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR... FIVE... ROCK...
IT'S MEGUMI MORISATO WITH "4-5 ROCK" !!!
....IN THE BIG ENKA SING-OFF!
RIGHT. NOW URD WILL BE OUR JUDGE...
OH, WHAT A SHAME. TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
...

CHAPTER 49

Lunchbox with Love

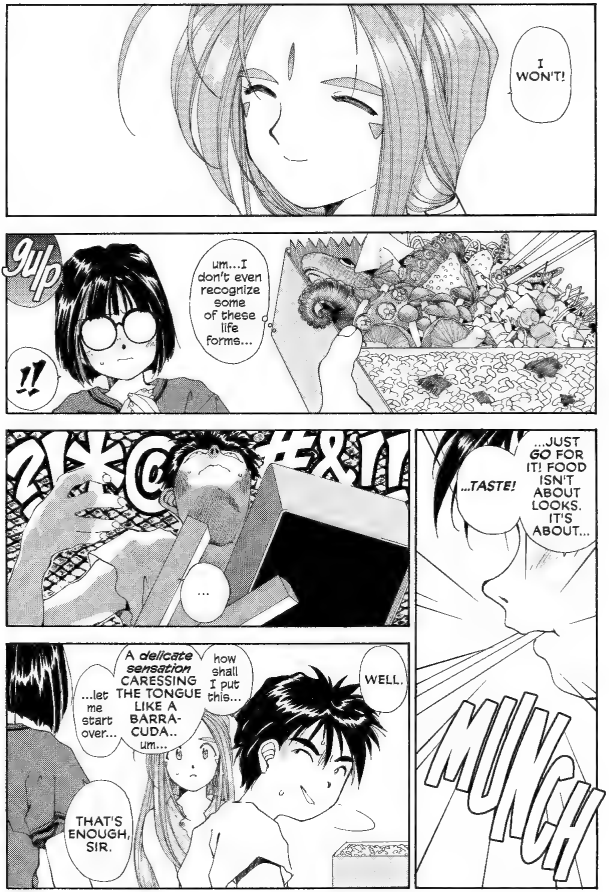
...THERE USED TO BE MORE ROOM IN THIS CLUB-HOUSE.
...THAT NO ONE DARES EVEN TRY TO CLEAN IT UP...
TAMIYA AND OTAKI HAVE BALANCED ALL THIS JUNK SO CARE-FULLY...
AOSHIMA! THAT'S MY LUNCH--
mmm...
!!
grab

EH?
MAN, WHAT WOULD ALL THE BUTT-KISSERS IN YOUR CLIQUE THINK IF THEY COULD SEE YOU NOW?!
BELLDANDY! TRULY YOUR LUNCHBOX ALONE CAN NOURISH ME!
IT'S... IT'S... STILL THAT GOOD!
OH!
ohhhh..
gulp
--huh?
whoosh
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, AOSHIMA?! I--
AIEE!
THAP

!!
SKRASSH
YO! HOW'S DA--
...
OUR PILES! OUR BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL PILES!
LEST DA FISTS OF HEAVEN PUNISH YA FOR YER HUBRIS!
MORI-SATO! STACK IT ALL BACK DA WAY IT WAS!
I'm out of here
--LOOK! HE DARED! HE DARED TRY T' CLEAN IT UP!

A BENTO BOX ...?
THE NEXT DAY...
ALL RIGHT...
..TIME TO EAT!
MISTER MORI-SATO ?!
HMM ...?
I-I MADE YOU THIS BENTO BOX!
P-PLEASE TRY IT!

UM, OKAY...
huh?
...I THINK SHE MUST HAVE SOME SPECIAL REASON, DON'T YOU?
...SO I CAN'T REAL-LY, BUT...
...UMM... BELL-DANDY ALREADY MADE ME ONE...
I... ER... I MEAN, LIKE...
BUT I...
??
GEEZ, I'M REALLY FULLING THIS BABES THESE DAYS!
OKAY. UNDER-STOOD. I'LL EAT IT.
I CAN TAKE A HINT WHEN IT'S WIELDED WITH A SLEDGE-HAMMER.
LOVE
NOT AM IN I!
NO! NOT THAT I'M IN LOVE!
um
YES! BUT IT'S NOT THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, SIR!
...BUT BELLDANDY, I'LL HAVE YOURS RIGHT AFTER-WARDS.
SO DON'T GO GIVING IT TO AOSHIMA... OKAY?

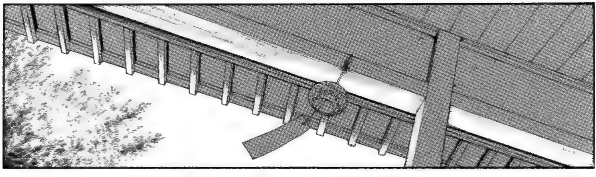

I WON'T!
GULP
!!
um...I don't even recognize some of these life forms...
...
...TASTE!
...JUST GO FOR IT! FOOD ISN'T ABOUT LOOKS. IT'S ABOUT...
MUNCH
WELL,
how shall I put this...
A delicate sensation CARESSING THE TONGUE LIKE A BARRA-CUDA... um...
...let me start over...
THAT'S ENOUGH, SIR.

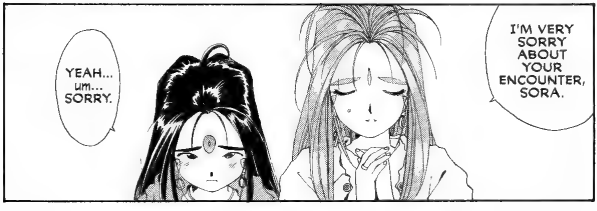
AND ON MY REPORT CARDS, MY TEACHERS ALWAYS WROTE... H-HORRIBLE THINGS...
EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL I'VE GOTTEN FAILING GRADES IN HOME ECONOMICS!
Perhaps Lena would benefit from practicing her cooking at home. I'll see you after class.
Nice essay
CHEM
ENG.
MUSIC
ART
H. EC.
HIST
...MY COOKING IS AWFUL.
I KNOW... I KNOW ALREADY...
I MEAN...
...HOW- HOW MUCH OF THAT DID I EAT...?
AND Y-YET... AND YET I WANT...
THEY CALLED ME... HASEGAWA... THE CHEF ASSASSIN...
...
MISTER MORISATO! I BEG OF YOU!

SO LITTLE MISS HASEGAWA HAS A CRUSH ON MORISATO, EH? I'LL USE THIS TO MY *ADVANTAGE!*
OH-*HO!*
TOMOR-ROW, AT YOUR HOUSE...
BRAPP
SKREEK
THE NEXT DAY...
...!
...*THIS* IS MISTER MORI-SATO'S HOUSE?
SO...

HELLO ...? IS ANY-ONE HERE--
...C'MON, SORA.
...
KSHANGG KSHANGG
KSHANGG KSHANGG

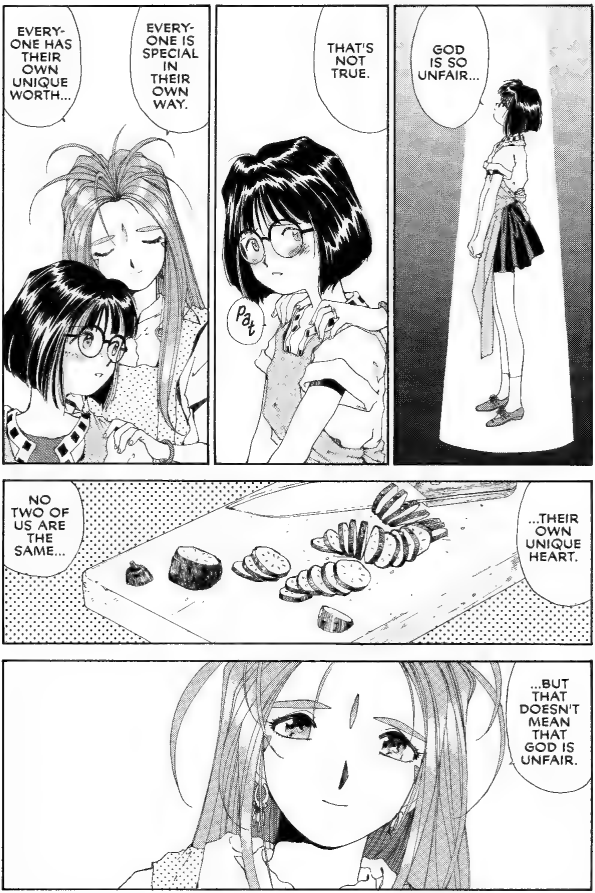
SKULD-FEST
OH NO! THAT'S RIGHT!! BELLDANDY DID ASK ME TO TURN HIM OFF THIS MORNING!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, SKULD... WHY DON'T YOU JUST TURN THAT THING OFF?
HMM... SOUNDS LIKE BANPEI'S CAUGHT SOME-ONE.




YEAH... um... SORRY.
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT YOUR ENCOUNTER, SORA.

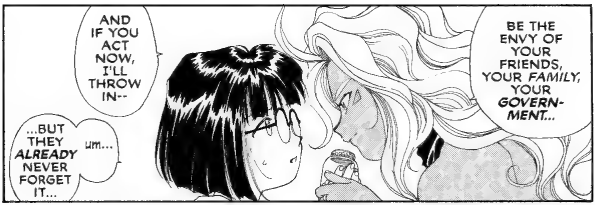
...IT'S OKAY.
HUH? NO, NO...
ACTUALLY, HE'S A REALLY AWESOME ROBOT.
I WAS SO AMAZED!
Yeee Chike
HE IS, ISN'T HE? ISN'T HE?!
WOW! WE'RE GOING TO BE GOOD FRIENDS, SORA! I JUST KNOW IT!
I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU WITH ANY-THING!! JUST ASK!!
eh?
eh?
I, um, THANK YOU, BUT TODAY I JUST CAME TO STUDY COOK-ING...
COOK-ING! GOTCHA! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!

...WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY, "JUST LEAVE IT TO ME" ...?
UM, HEY, WAIT--
DON'T LEAVE BEFORE I'M FINISHED! PROMISE ?!
AH? OH, YES. YES, PLEASE!
WELL, THEN-- SHALL WE GET STARTED?
...YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD COOK... YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL... EVERYONE LIKES YOU...
Y- YOU'RE SO LUCKY, MISS BELL-DANDY...
GO SLOWLY AT FIRST...
THAT'S GOOD!
chok
chok
UM...
boinggg


EVERY-ONE HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE WORTH...
EVERY-ONE IS SPECIAL IN THEIR OWN WAY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
Pat
GOD IS SO UNFAIR...
NO TWO OF US ARE THE SAME...
...THEIR OWN UNIQUE HEART.
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT GOD IS UNFAIR.

IT'S THE PRECIOUS LIGHT OF OUR SOUL.
IT MEANS THAT EACH OF US SHINES IN OUR OWN SPECIAL WAY.
BELL-DANDY... YOU'RE SO WARM.
IT MAY EVEN BE THAT COOKING IS YOUR OWN SECRET STRENGTH.
SO DON'T YOU GIVE UP!

MY SISTER'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW... THERE *IS* SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOU.
IT'S LIKE... THE EMBRACE OF A GODDESS.
YOU TAMED THE TEMPER-AMENTAL SKULD WITH A SINGLE SENTENCE.
NOW, A GIRL LIKE YOU...
BUT MAN, OH *MAN*... YOU REALLY *ARE* HAVING TROUBLE COOKING!
A SINGLE TABLET MAKES YOUR MEAL A FEAST THEY'LL *NEVER* FORGET!
...NEEDS MY ULTRA-DELUXE *FLAVOR EMPEROR GOLD 200!*

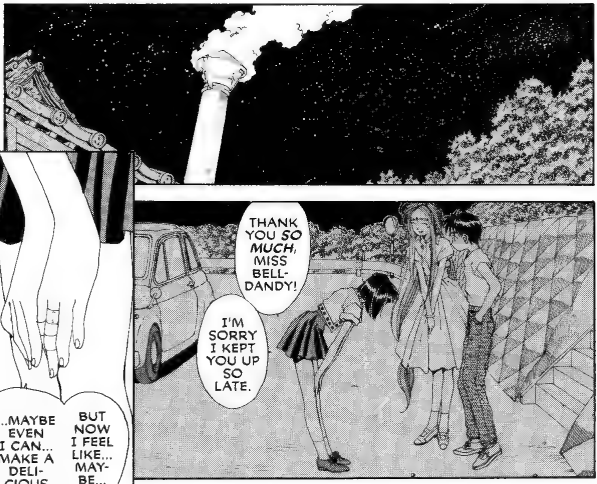

BE THE ENVY OF YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR GOVERNMENT...
AND IF YOU ACT NOW, I'LL THROW IN--
um...
...BUT THEY ALREADY NEVER FORGET IT...

oh, rats
HEY, SORA! IT'S DONE!

=Vreee=
=Vreep=
THE NEW BANPEI THREE-STAR CHEF ATTACHMENT SET!

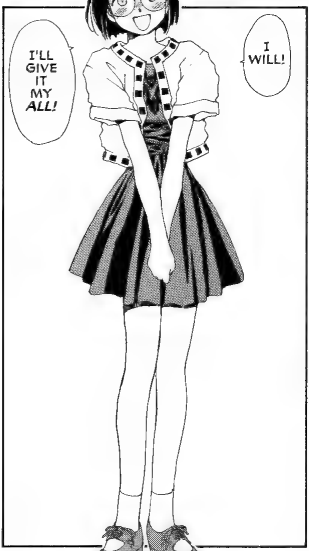
I'M SORRY.
...I WANT TO DO IT *BY* MYSELF, WITH *MY* OWN HANDS.
BUT...
...THANK YOU, SKULD... AND URD. FOR EVERY-THING.
GOSH...
...SHE'S GOT SOME-THING POWERFUL INSIDE... SOMETHING INTENSE IS DRIVING HER.
SEE ...?
CAN'T YOU FEEL THAT *ENERGY* ...?
WHAT A DRAG...
HUH? *aw!*
...I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP...
WAIT, SKULD, CHECK IT OUT!

OOG... DINNER... FOOD...
MUST HAVE FOOD...
URD! GROWN-UPS ARE SUCH HYPO-CRITES!
chak
...AND THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T INTERFERE.
I SHOULDN'T INTERFERE?! WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
OOPS... YOU SAW ME...?


THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISS BELL-DANDY!
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU UP SO LATE.
BUT NOW I FEEL LIKE... MAYBE...
...MAYBE EVEN I CAN... MAKE A DELICIOUS BENTO.

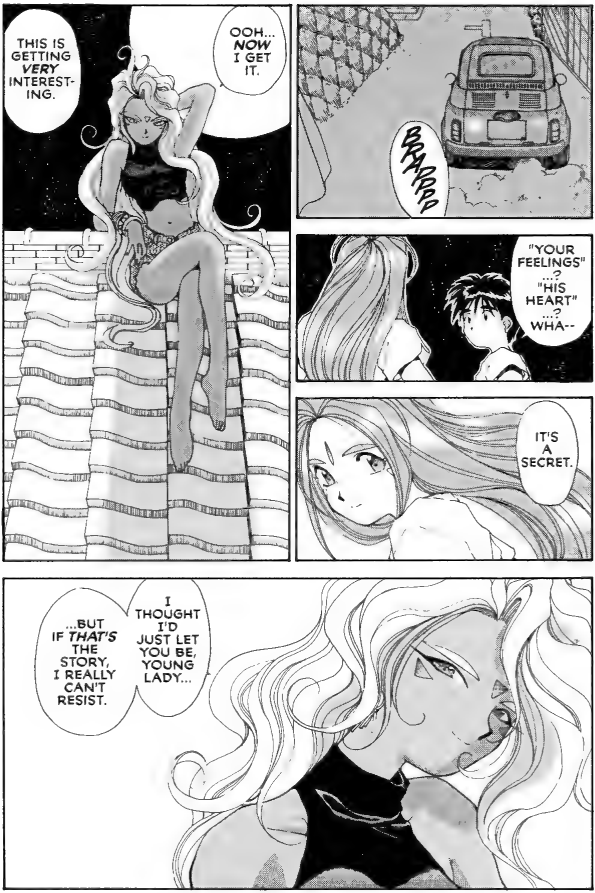
I KNOW YOU CAN.
THOSE CUTS ON YOUR FINGERS WON'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

!!
I'M SURE YOUR FEEL-INGS...
...WILL REACH HIS HEART.


I WILL!
I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!

SHE KNEW? BUT HOW ...?
MISS BELL-DANDY, YOU'RE SOME-THING SPECIAL...

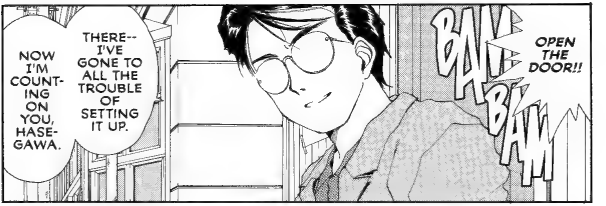
DO YOUR BEST.


THIS IS GETTING *VERY* INTERESTING.
OOH.. *NOW* I GET IT.
BRRRRP
"YOUR FEELINGS" ...? "HIS HEART" ...? WHA--
IT'S A SECRET.
I THOUGHT I'D JUST LET YOU BE, YOUNG LADY...
...BUT IF *THAT'S* THE STORY, I REALLY CAN'T RESIST.

IT'S ALMOST TIME.
SO, YOU DARE TO SOLVE A PROBLEM OF THE HEART... WITHOUT CALLING ON THE *LOVE GODDESS URD?*
FSHT
YOU'RE FIVE HUNDRED MILLION YEARS TOO YOUNG FOR *THAT,* SWEETIE!
BAM

...AS IF IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL!
I PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS...
HEH, HEH...
OH, HI!
...SORRY WE'RE SO LATE!
...SO HERE-- PLEASE TRY A BITE.
ALL MY PRACTICE WENT INTO THIS...
...WHAT IS IT, BELL-DANDY?
TEA? I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING ANY. ARE YOU SURE?
I THOUGHT I REMEMBERED SEEING SOME TEA HERE BEFORE...

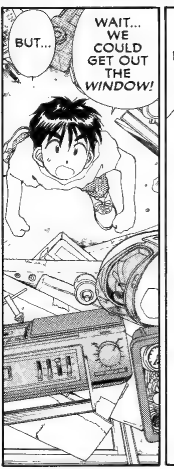
BUT WE DON'T REAL-LY...
I'LL GO DOWN TO THE CORNER STORE AND GET SOME, OKAY?
UM...
...AH, WELL... SO-- WHERE WERE WE...?
HEY!! WHO DID THAT?!
HUH? WE'VE BEEN LOCKED IN!
?!
KAHK


NOW I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HASEGAWA.
THERE--I'VE GONE TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF SETTING IT UP.
BAM! BAM!
OPEN THE DOOR!!

AND ONCE THEY'RE PASSIONATELY ENGAGED, I'LL QUIETLY TAKE THE LOCK OFF THE DOOR...
I-I NEVER KNEW...
S-SORA...
I-I LOVE YOU...
ALONE AND DESPERATE... THEIR HEARTS OPEN TO ONE ANOTHER...
IT'S A CLASSIC--THE YOUNG COUPLE, TRAPPED IN A SITUATION TOGETHER...

IF I KNOCK THAT JUNK DOWN AGAIN, TAMIYA WILL...
ARGH! BUT I CAN'T!

MISTER MORISATO...


BUT...
WAIT... WE COULD GET OUT THE WINDOW!

PERFECT PLAN.
...ALLOWING BELLDANDY TO WALK IN ON THEM, OF COURSE.

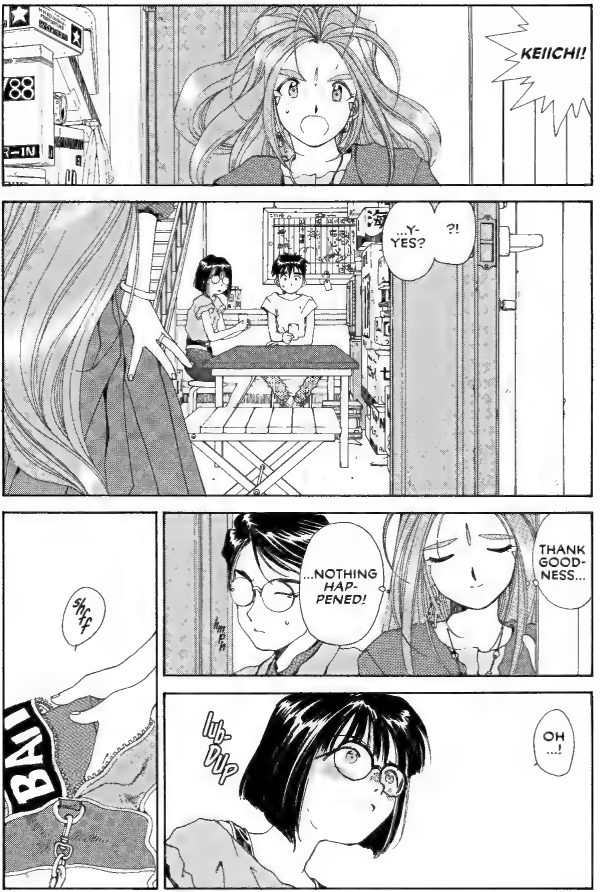
I THOUGHT I FELT SOMETHING... A TRACE OF POWER...
!
WHY DON'T WE JUST HAVE LUNCH?
...DON'T WORRY. MISS BELLDANDY WILL BE BACK SOON.
HEH HEH
URD ...?!
SHINGG
...MAKES ME FEEL SO GOOD!
HELPING OUT THE HELP-LESS...

B-B-
BELL-DANDY?!
ulp!
fwmp
SISTER, DEAREST... WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THESE?!
SO...
...H-HOW IS IT?
....
I... UM... ER...
UH-OH... I'M IN FOR IT NOW... WHEN BELLDANDY GETS MAD...

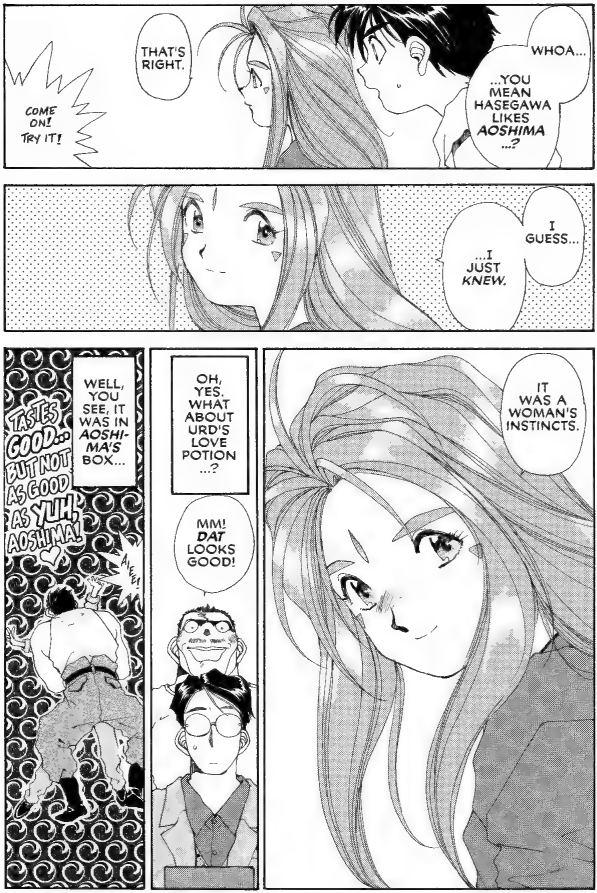
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEARNED SO MUCH IN JUST ONE NIGHT!
IT'S *GREAT!!* YOU'VE REALLY IMPROVED!
HEH HEH...
...THEN I'LL HAVE SOME, TOO.
I WONDER...
...IF I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPIER... MORISATO-SEMPAI... IF I'D FALLEN IN LOVE...
...WITH *YOU*.
UM...
...HEY.
HUH?

HUH ?!
YES !!
WHAT?! YOU PUT A LOVE POTION IN HER BENTO ?!

IF THEY EAT THAT LUNCH...
...THEY'RE CERTAIN TO FALL IN LOVE!
AH... ha ha.
...I WAS SO s-scared.
PLEASE LET ME BE IN TIME!
WHOA... WAY TOO SOON!
!!
AHEM BELLDANDY! IT'S AWFUL! MORISATO'S INSIDE WITH HASEGAWA AND THEY'RE...
AH, WELL... THEY SHOULD BE BUSY ENOUGH...
KUNK


KEIICHI!
...Y-YES?
?!
THANK GOOD-NESS...
...NOTHING HAP-PENED!
OH ...!
luh-Dup
SHIFT
BAM

I MADE THIS ONE FOR YOU.
HERE!
MORISATO, YOU LUCKED OUT AGAIN...
MAYBE IT'S NOT AS GOOD AS MISS BELL-DANDY'S...
...BUT IT'S STRAIGHT FROM MY HEART.
F-FROM YOUR ...?
huh?


WHOA...
...YOU MEAN HASEGAWA LIKES AOSHIMA ...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
COME ON! TRY IT!
I GUESS...
...I JUST KNEW.
IT WAS A WOMAN'S INSTINCTS.
OH, YES. WHAT ABOUT URD'S LOVE POTION ...?
MM! DAT LOOKS GOOD!
WELL, YOU SEE, IT WAS IN AOSHIMA'S BOX...
TASTES GOOD... BUT NOT AS GOOD AS YUH, AOSHIMA!
AHH!

THE ADVENTURES OF MINI-URD

Now with added MINI-SKULD!

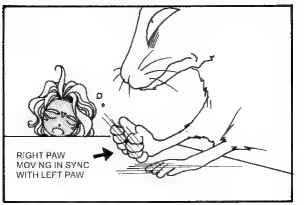
(INSERT DRUMMER JOKE HERE)

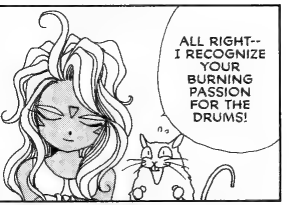
YEAH... SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
SIGH... HOW CAN WE PLAY WITHOUT A DRUMMER?
ME! ME!
AW... BUT THEN IT'LL BE THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
WAIT! I KNOW-- I'LL SUB-DIVIDE!
WILL DRUM FOR FOOD
I CAN DRUM!!
GIVE ME A BREAK.
HOW ABOUT THIS DRUM MACHINE?
...
...

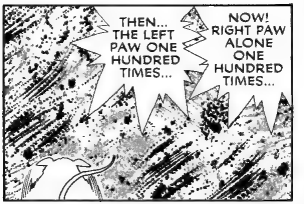
LET'S START A BAND!

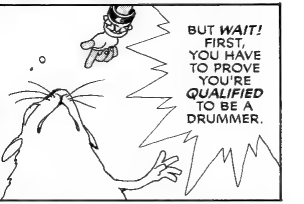
I'LL PLAY LEAD GUITAR!
I'M ON BASS!
THIS TIME, WE'RE GONNA ROCK!
HEY! FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, WE DON'T WANT THE SAME THING!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
SISTER... THAT'S THE WRONG KIND OF BASS.

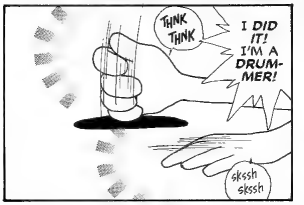
YOU TOO CAN PLAY DRUMS!

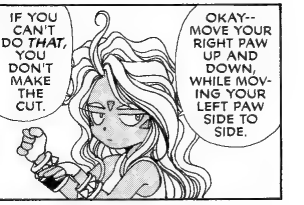


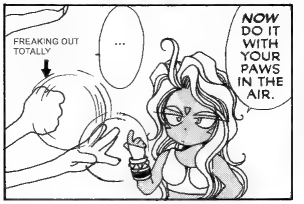


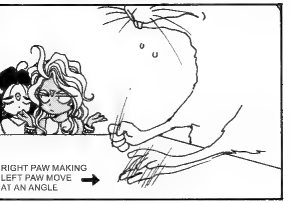










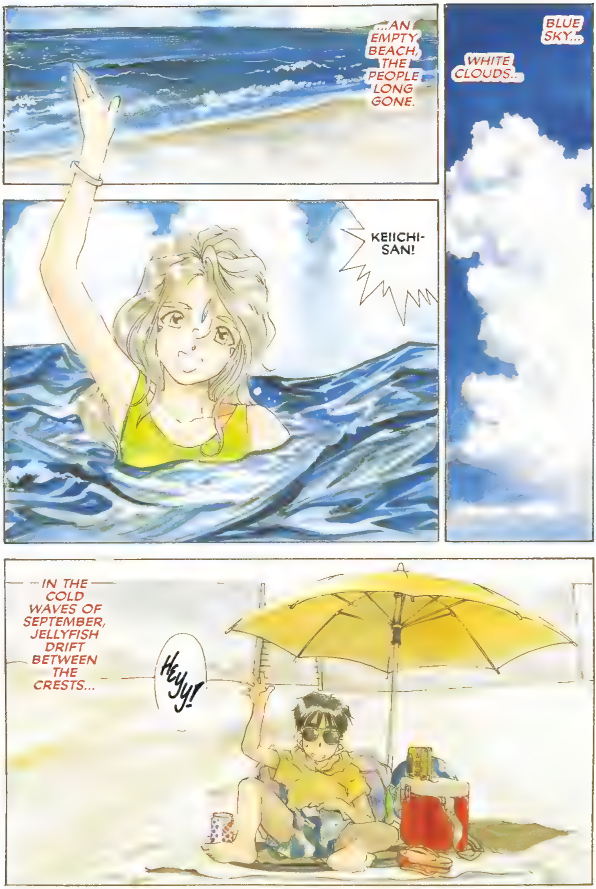


SPECIAL TRAINING VERSUS RESULTS: A STUDY IN NON-CAUSALITY

I THINK I'D PREFER THE ROCK.
HMM...OKAY, THEN--HOW ABOUT IF I GET ON A SLED AND YOU PULL ME AROUND A TRACK FOR FIVE MILES?
WAIT! *WAIT!!* I DID IT!
YOUR SUFFERING WAS NOT IN VAIN.
WELL, I JUST PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THAT TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH OF *SPIRIT.*
UM... YOU *DO* HAVE SOME STRENGTH OF SPIRIT, RIGHT?
SO NONE OF THAT WAS TO ACTUALLY HELP ME BE A BETTER *DRUMMER ...?!*

SPECIAL TRAINING: OBSERVATIONS ON PRACTICAL TECHNIQUE

YOU *STILL* CAN'T DO IT?
WHAT A LOSER! OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME *SPECIAL* TRAINING.
WHUD
ARE YOU *NUTS ?!*
NO, NO! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO *CATCH IT,* YOU DUMB RAT!

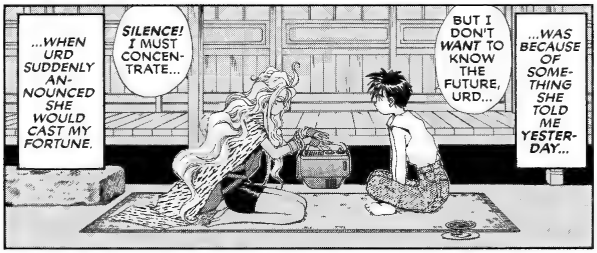

...AN EMPTY BEACH, THE PEOPLE LONG GONE.
BLUE SKY...
WHITE CLOUDS...
KEIICHI-SAN!
IN THE COLD WAVES OF SEPTEMBER, JELLYFISH DRIFT BETWEEN THE CRESTS...
Heyy!

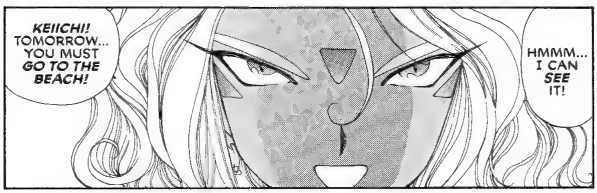
CHAPTER 50

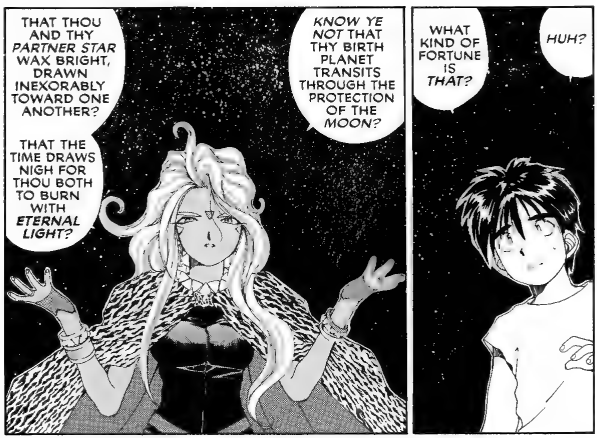
Meet Me by the Seashore

...BUT NONE OF THAT SEEMED TO BOTHER THE GODDESS-ES.

?!
splat
splat
splat
AH, WELL... AS LONG AS THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
choke
S-SEA SLUG!
URD "SEE SLUG" TOO, KEIICHI.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING... JUST LYING ON THE SAND?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THE REASON WE'RE ALL HERE BY THE SEA-SHORE...


...WHEN URD SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED SHE WOULD CAST MY FORTUNE.
SILENCE! I MUST CONCENTRATE...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE FUTURE, URD...
...WAS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SHE TOLD ME YESTERDAY...

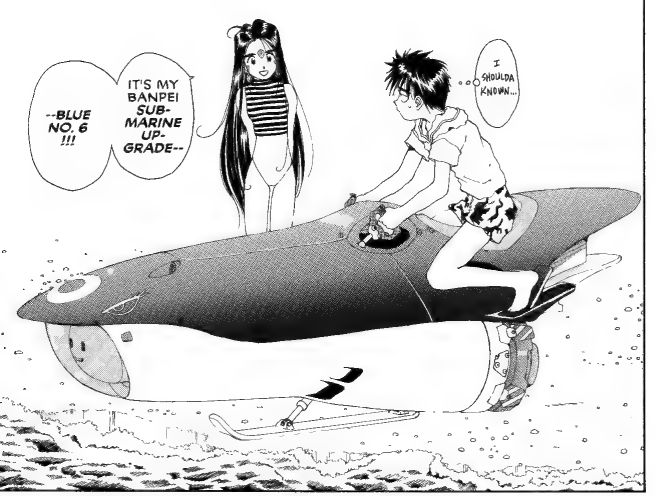

KEIICHI! TOMORROW... YOU MUST GO TO THE BEACH!
HMMM... I CAN SEE IT!

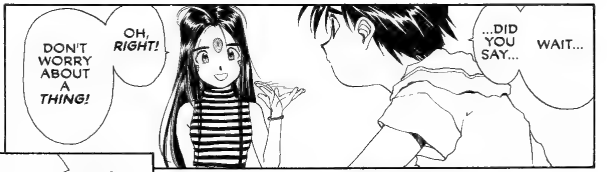

THAT THOU AND THY PARTNER STAR WAX BRIGHT, DRAWN INEXORABLY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER?
THAT THE TIME DRAWS NIGH FOR THOU BOTH TO BURN WITH ETERNAL LIGHT?
KNOW YE NOT THAT THY BIRTH PLANET TRANSITS THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF THE MOON?
WHAT KIND OF FORTUNE IS THAT?
HUH?

...WILL BE BOUND TOGETHER FOREVER!
THOSE WHO PLEDGE THEIR LOVE UPON THAT ROCK, BENEATH THE FULL MOON...
Nope Not a word
...dost thou get it?!
I'M STUDYING ENGINEERING, NOT ASTROLOGY...
ON THE COAST-LINE SOUTH OF HERE
WELL, LISTEN UP!
...STANDS THE ROCK OF THE THREE SISTERS.
NOW DOST THOU GET IT?
FOR-EVER!
IT IS FATE... KISMET... DESTINY !!

...BUT A WOMAN IS *ALWAYS* WAITING TO HEAR THOUGHTS... PUT INTO WORDS.
YOU CAN BELIEVE ME OR *NOT,* KEIICHI...
JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HER LOONY-TUNE STORIES.
AND YOU'LL TURN UP BY THE SEA-SHORE... I KNOW IT.
OR... SO I THOUGHT.
KEIICHI ...?
BUT OF COURSE, HERE I AM-- BY THE SEA-SHORE... LIKE A SUCKER.
THAT SLUG GOES ON YOUR HEAD, TO HELP YOU THINK. THE NEXT ONE GOES DOWN YOUR PANTS.
PLEASE DON'T.
WHERE DOES SHE FIND THESE THINGS?

...I...I'M KIND OF A JELLYFISH MAGNET.
ME? NAW. I, er...
WHOA...! GUESS IT WAS WORTH COMING HERE, AFTER ALL.
ACK!
HEY, KEIICHI!! CHECK OUT MY GREAT NEW INVENTION!
AREN'T YOU COMING FOR A SWIM...?
OKAY... NOW, JUST HOLD ON TIGHT.
NO! PLEASE! HELLLP!
COME ON! YOU GOTTA TRY IT!
IT'S SUPER FUN!


--BLUE NO. 6 !!!
IT'S MY BANPEI SUB-MARINE UP-GRADE--
I SHOULDA KNOWN...

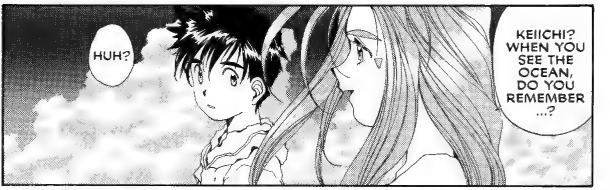

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
OH, RIGHT!
...DID YOU SAY...
WAIT...

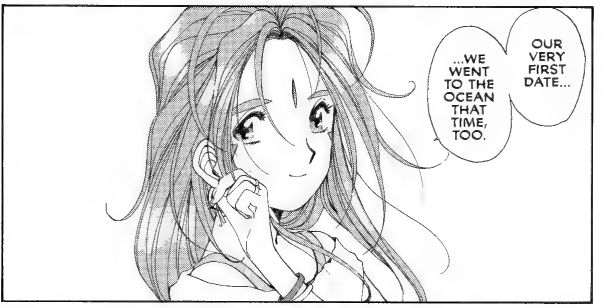
I CAN'T SWI--
NO, WAIT! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
SO YOU JUST KICK BACK AND ENJOY!
I DRIVE IT FOR YOU...BY REMOTE CONTROL!

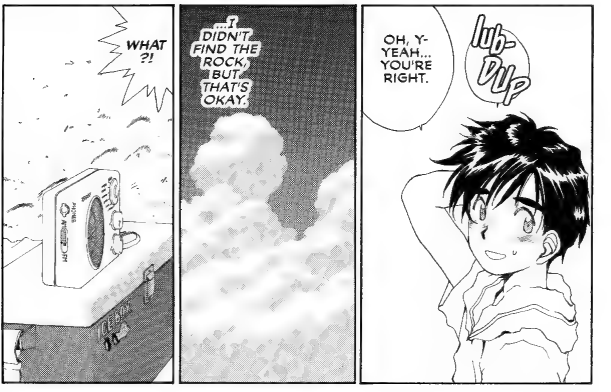
AEE!
BWHOOSH
YEEK!
BLSH
WH-WH-WHY D-DIDN'T I T-TELL THEM B-BEFORE?!
YES, SKULD... HE ALWAYS SCREAMS THAT WAY WHEN HE'S HAVING LOTS OF FUN.
OH GOODY! HE'S HAVING LOTS OF FUN!
YAAAAA!

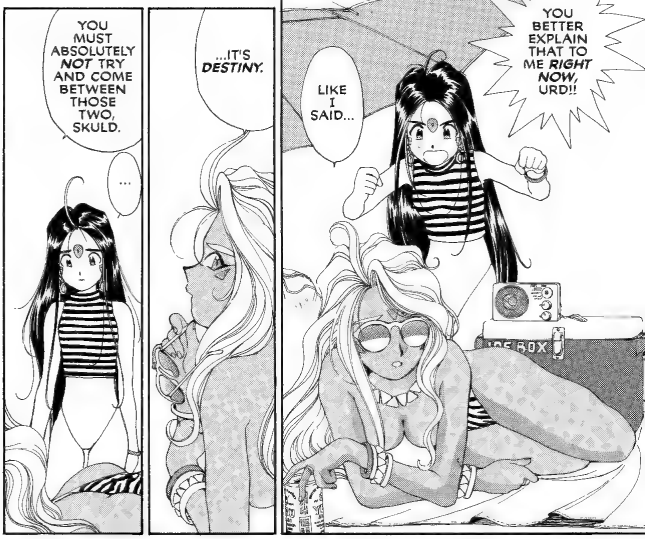
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HANG ON JUST TO PLEASE SKULD...YOU COULD HAVE JUST JUMPED OFF...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!!
KEIICHI ...?
HELP! HELLLLP..
I'M FINE! OKAY!
AH HA HA HA!
IF ONLY URD HADN'T TOLD ME THAT NONSENSE, I WOULDN'T BE SO NERVOUS...
BOUND TOGETHER FOREVER!
...A WOMAN IS ALWAYS WAITING TO HEAR THOUGHTS... PUT INTO WORDS!

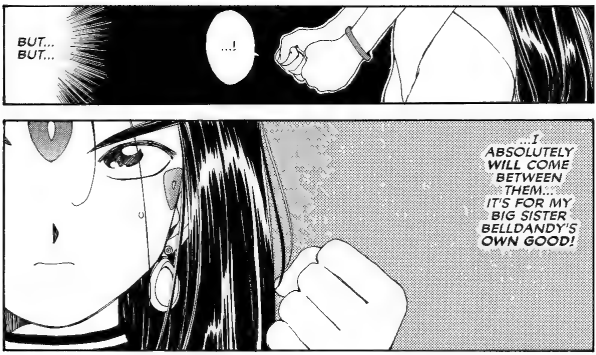
BUT... WHAT IF THERE REALLY IS SUCH A PLACE...?
Ghosts! THE ROCK OF THE THREE SISTERS!
OH, JUST... um....JUST TAKING A LITTLE WALK.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
KEI-ICHI-SAN?
STAY, SKULD.
ME TOO, ME TOO!
MAY I COME ALONG ...?
...I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE IT.
KSSSSHOOM

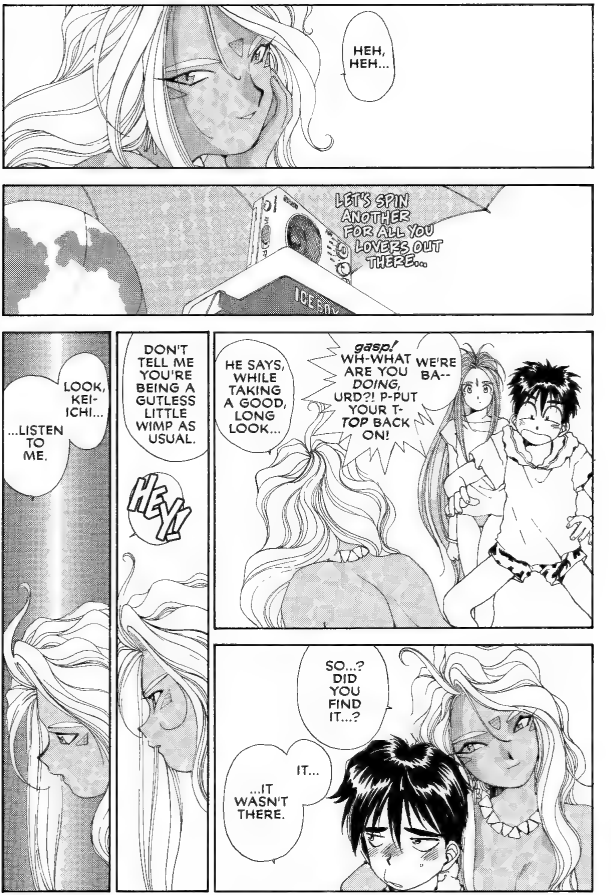

HUH?
KEIICHI? WHEN YOU SEE THE OCEAN, DO YOU REMEMBER ...?

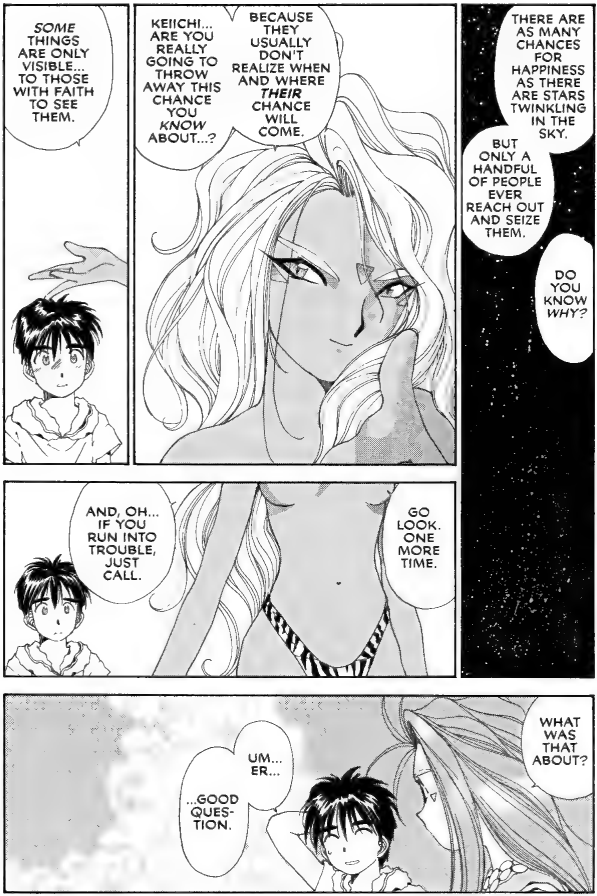

OUR VERY FIRST DATE...
...WE WENT TO THE OCEAN THAT TIME, TOO.

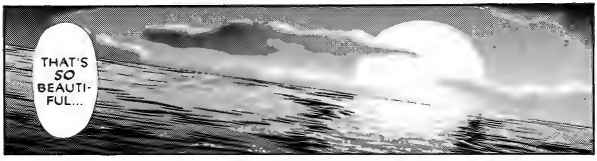

WHAT ?!
...I DIDN'T FIND THE ROCK, BUT, THAT'S OKAY.
OH, Y-YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
lub-DUP

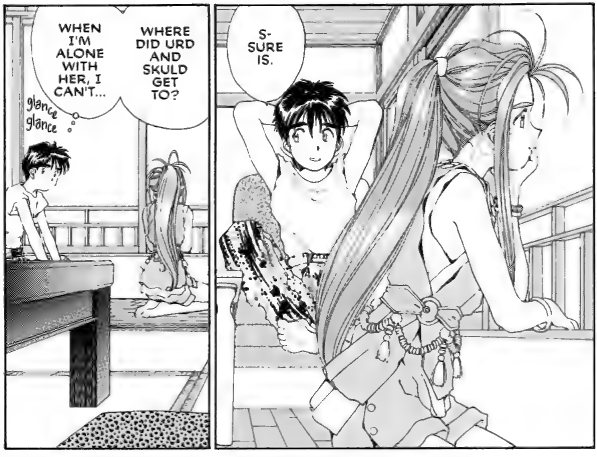

YOU MUST ABSOLUTELY *NOT* TRY AND COME BETWEEN THOSE TWO, SKULD.
...
...IT'S *DESTINY.*
LIKE I SAID...
YOU BETTER EXPLAIN THAT TO ME *RIGHT NOW,* URD!!

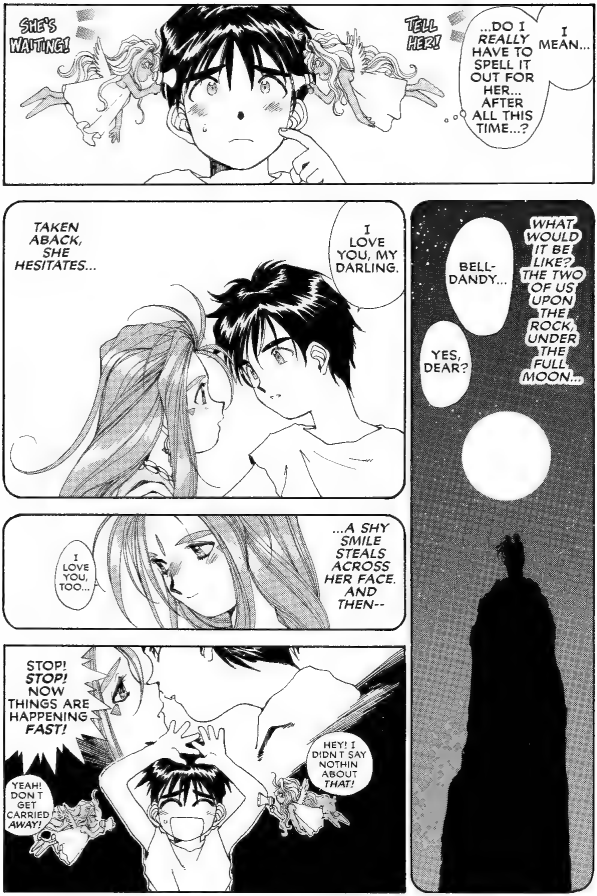

BUT... BUT...
...!
...I ABSOLUTELY WILL COME BETWEEN THEM... IT'S FOR MY BIG SISTER BELLDANDY'S OWN GOOD!

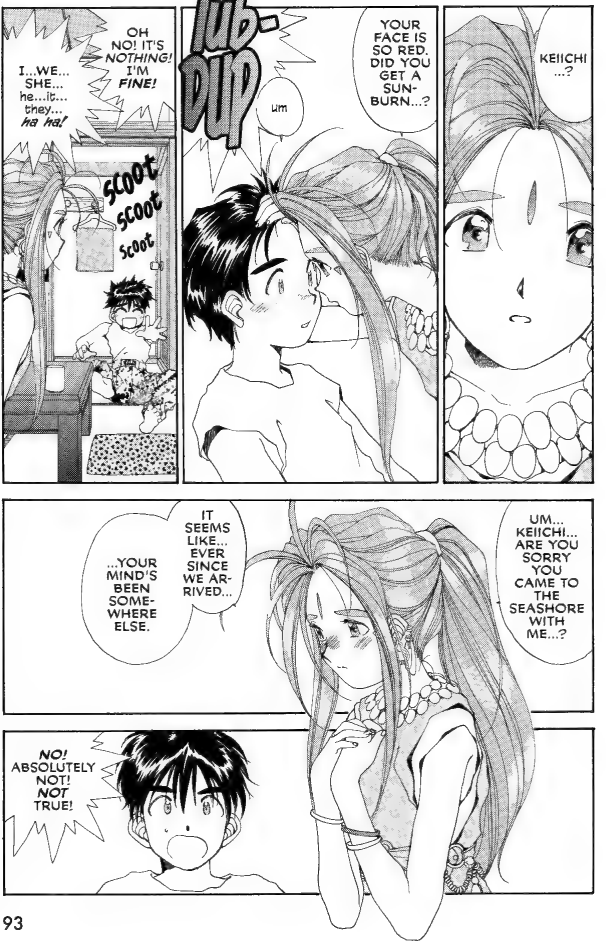

HEH, HEH...
LET'S SPIN ANOTHER FOR ALL YOU LOVERS OUT THERE...
LOOK, KEI-ICHI...
...LISTEN TO ME.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BEING A GUTLESS LITTLE WIMP AS USUAL.
HEY!
HE SAYS, WHILE TAKING A GOOD, LONG LOOK...
gasp! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, URD?! P-PUT YOUR T-TOP BACK ON!
WE'RE BA--
SO...? DID YOU FIND IT...?
IT...
...IT WASN'T THERE.

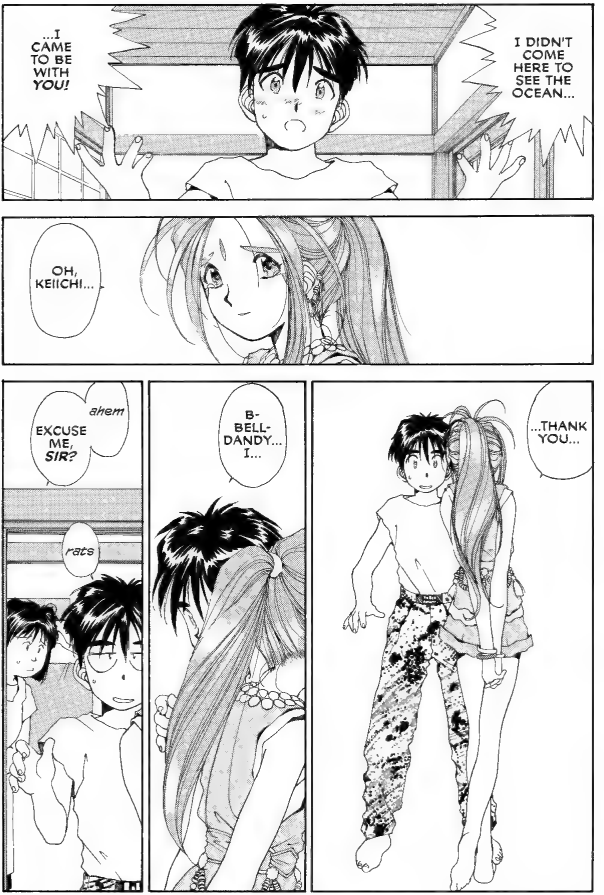

SOME THINGS ARE ONLY VISIBLE... TO THOSE WITH FAITH TO SEE THEM.
KEIICHI... ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO THROW AWAY THIS CHANCE YOU KNOW ABOUT...?
BECAUSE THEY USUALLY DON'T REALIZE WHEN AND WHERE THEIR CHANCE WILL COME.
THERE ARE AS MANY CHANCES FOR HAPPINESS AS THERE ARE STARS TWINKLING IN THE SKY.
BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE EVER REACH OUT AND SEIZE THEM.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
AND, OH... IF YOU RUN INTO TROUBLE, JUST CALL.
GO LOOK. ONE MORE TIME.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
UM... ER...
...GOOD QUES-TION.


THAT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...


WHEN I'M ALONE WITH HER, I CAN'T...
glance glance
WHERE DID URD AND SKULD GET TO?
S-SURE IS.

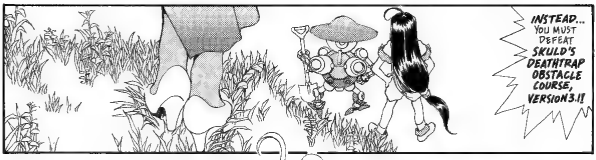

SHE'S WAITING!
TELL HER!
I MEAN...
...DO I REALLY HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR HER... AFTER ALL THIS TIME...?
TAKEN ABACK, SHE HESITATES...
I LOVE YOU, MY DARLING.
BELL-DANDY...
WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE? THE TWO OF US UPON THE ROCK, UNDER THE FULL MOON...
YES, DEAR?
I LOVE YOU, TOO...
...A SHY SMILE STEALS ACROSS HER FACE. AND THEN--
STOP! STOP! NOW THINGS ARE HAPPENING FAST!
HEY! I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN ABOUT THAT!
YEAH! DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!

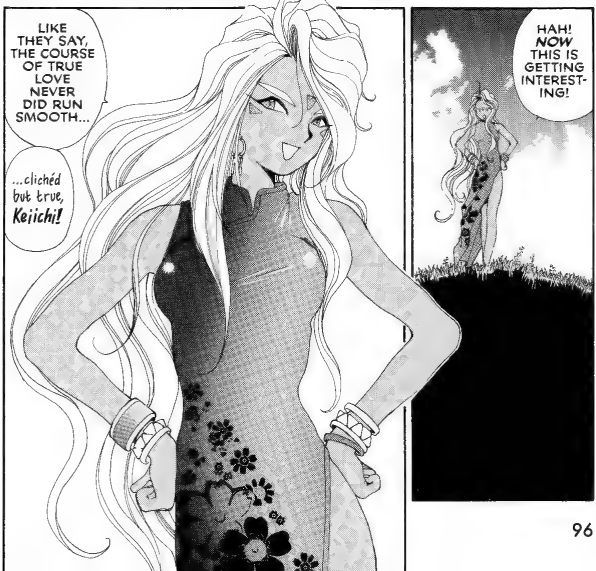

KEIICHI ...?
YOUR FACE IS SO RED. DID YOU GET A SUN-BURN...?
lub-DUP
um
OH NO! IT'S NOTHING! I'M FINE!
I...WE... SHE... he...it... they... ha ha!
scoot scoot scoot
UM... KEIICHI... ARE YOU SORRY YOU CAME TO THE SEASHORE WITH ME...?
IT SEEMS LIKE... EVER SINCE WE AR-RIVED...
...YOUR MIND'S BEEN SOME-WHERE ELSE.
NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! NOT TRUE!


...I CAME TO BE WITH YOU!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO SEE THE OCEAN...
OH, KEIICHI...
ahem
EXCUSE ME, SIR?
rats
B-BELL-DANDY... I...
...THANK YOU...

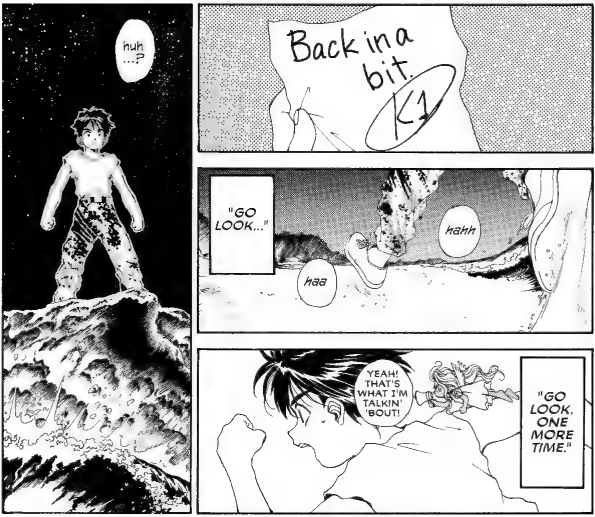
...BUT THIS THING DRAWS TOO MUCH OF A CROWD.
I SAID IT WAS OKAY TO PARK YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE OUT FRONT...
OH, DEAR.
...HOW DID SKULD GET THIS THING HERE, ANY-WAY...?
I'M SORRY, MA'AM-- I'LL MOVE IT RIGHT AWAY.
Pat
Pat
KL/K
VREE

BUT I WILL NOT SIMPLY HAND OVER MY BIG SISTER TO YOU!
KEIICHI... TRY TO UNDER-STAND. I DON'T HATE YOU.
NO WAY!


INSTEAD... YOU MUST DEFEAT SKULD'S DEATHTRAP OBSTACLE COURSE, VERSION 3.11


LIKE THEY SAY, THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE NEVER DID RUN SMOOTH...
...clichéd but true, Keiichi!
HAH! NOW THIS IS GETTING INTEREST-ING!

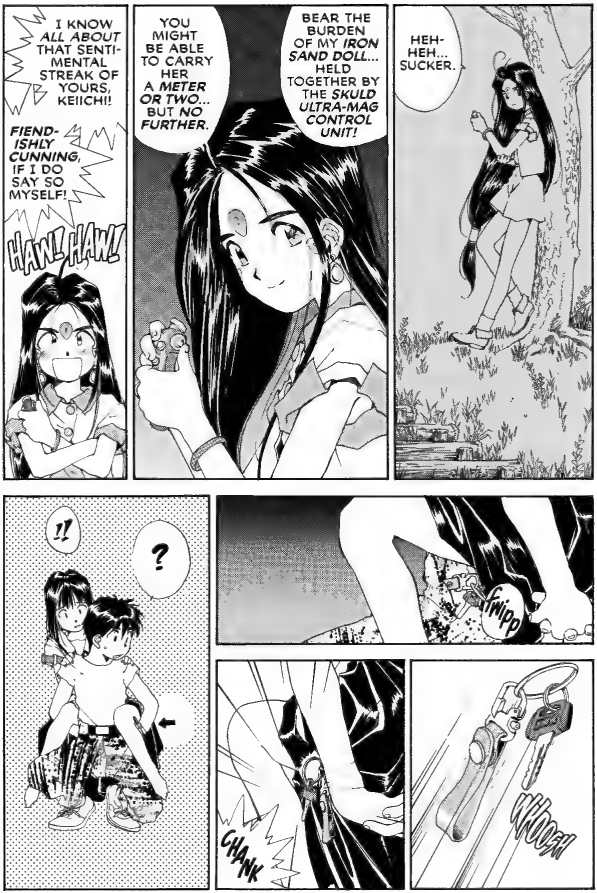
...TO THOSE WITH FAITH TO SEE THEM.
SOME THINGS ARE ONLY VISIBLE...
...
--KEIICHI ...?
IT'S SO BIG AND LUXURI-OUS--
OH, KEIICHI... YOU SHOULD TRY THE BATH.


huh ...?
Back in a bit.
K1
"GO LOOK..."
haa
hahh
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT!
"GO LOOK. ONE MORE TIME."

...THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T SEE IT BE-FORE!
IT WAS HIGH TIDE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?!

A-ALL OF A SUDDEN I COULDN'T WALK.. I...I FEEL DIZZY--
?!
MAYBE WHAT URD SAID IS REALLY TRU--
H-HELLO ...? ARE YOU OKAY ...?
WH... WHAT A BABE !!
...BUT I CAN'T JUST...
I NEED TO GET BACK TO TELL BELL-DANDY ABOUT THE ROCK...

IF IT'S NOT TOO FAR, THERE SHOULD STILL BE TIME...
UM... DO YOU WANT A LIFT? WHERE'S YOUR HOTEL ...?
heh-heh
OH... THANK YOU, KIND SIR.
MAN! SHE WEIGHS A TON!
WHUMP
I...I CAN'T HOLD HER UP! I DON'T GET IT!
CREAK
HHRNG!

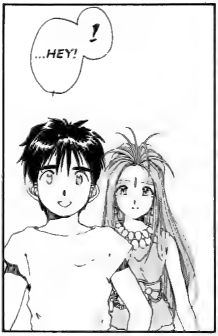

I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT SENTIMENTAL STREAK OF YOURS, KEIICHI!!
FIENDISHLY CUNNING, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
HAW! HAW!
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CARRY HER A METER OR TWO... BUT NO FURTHER.
BEAR THE BURDEN OF MY IRON SAND DOLL... HELD TOGETHER BY THE SKULD ULTRA-MAG CONTROL UNIT!
HEH-HEH... SUCKER.
!!
?
FWIPP
CHANK
WHOOSH

BLAM
CLANK
WHO
um... WHAT TH--?!
SHUCKS! BUSTED !!
SELF DE-STRUCT!
...WITH A SPECTACU-LARLY AMATEUR-ISH ENDING--
A SUPERBLY SKILLFUL EXECU-TION...
koff
koff
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
koff
koff
--IT MUST BE SKULD.
MAN... DOES SHE REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE BELLDANDY AWAY FROM HER?

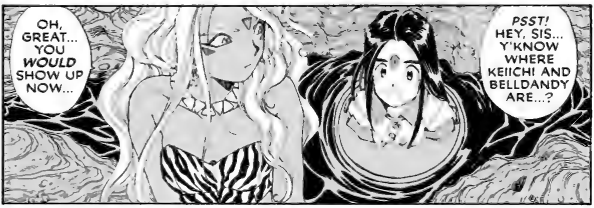
...I'LL HAVE TO USE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT BACK!
AAGH!!
SKREAK
AIEE!
I'M B-BACK
OH! IT WAS A WHILE
YEEOW!!
EVEN I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO HIT EVERY SINGLE TRAP!!
I'M STARTING TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

KEIICHI... WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON...?
...DO YOU WANT TO COME SEE...?
...SAY! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL FULL MOON OUT THERE...
WELL, uh... I...
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
I MEAN... HOW THE HECK ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET OUT THERE?
...I WASN'T THINKING, WAS I?
DARN IT...

YOU KNOW I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU...
KEIICHI... I WISH YOU'D JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.
GULP
WHEN IN DANGER...
HO HO HO!
KBLOOSH
OR IN DOUBT...
...FOR URD!
...RUN IN CIRCLES, SCREAM AND SHOUT...


!
...HEY!

REMEMBER THIS, KEIICHI ...?!

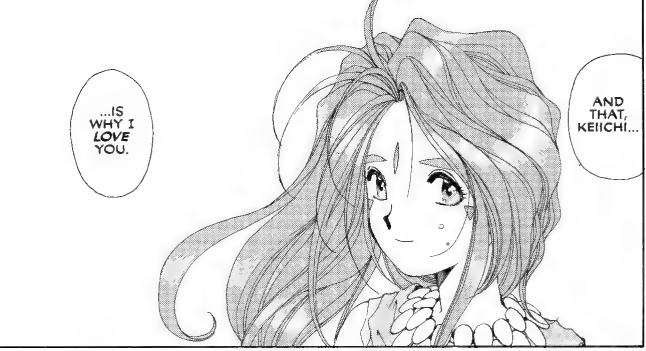

OH, GREAT... YOU WOULD SHOW UP NOW...
PSST! HEY, SIS... Y'KNOW WHERE KEIICHI AND BELLDANDY ARE...?

...THAT'S THEM!
BLUE NO. 6... DIVE!!
Klick
OH NO, YOU DON'T!
...ALMOST THERE...
ALMOST THERE...

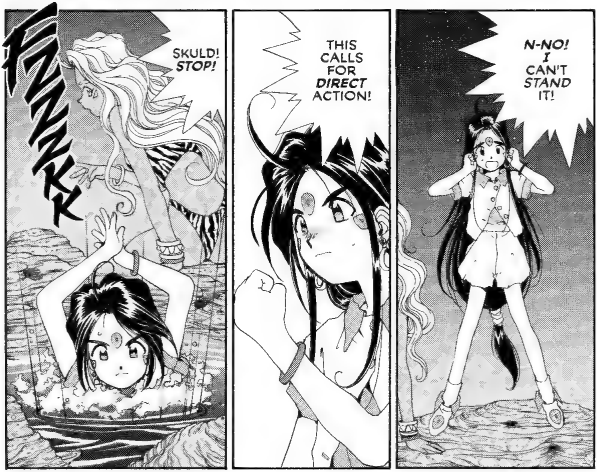
blub
blub
blub
BLURGGLE
WHAT TH--?!
YAIEE! WE'RE SINKING! HELP!!
blubb

KRAKOOSH

koff... I'M SUCH A LOSER...
I'M S-SORRY... YOU K-KEEP HAVING TO SAVE ME.
koff
koff
NO... YOU ARE *NOT.*
YOU CAN'T EVEN *SWIM,* KEIICHI... YOU *SHOULD* BE AFRAID OF THE OCEAN.
I CAN SWIM. I CAN *FLY.*
...BUT *YOU* WERE STILL WILLING TO SAIL OUT HERE...JUST TO SHOW ME THE MOON FROM THESE BEAUTIFUL ROCKS.


AND THAT, KEIICHI...
...IS WHY I *LOVE* YOU.

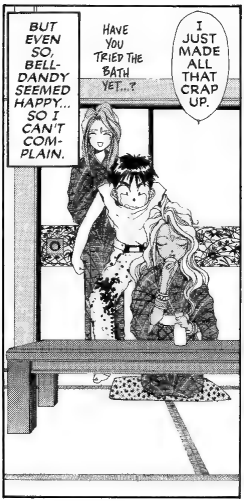
B-BELL-DANDY...


SKULD! *STOP!*
FNNNKK
THIS CALLS FOR *DIRECT* ACTION!
N-NO! I CAN'T *STAND* IT!

YOU ALWAYS FIND THE SILVER LINING IN EVERYTHING, BELL-DANDY.
...
THANK YOU.
...BUT IF THEY'VE GONE THAT FAR...
OH WELL... I WISH SHE'D LEAVE THEM IN PEACE.
SKULD ATTACK!
AND THAT'S WHY...
...WHY...

...I LOVE YOU, TOO--
?!

CONGRATULA-TIONS... STUPID!
BOUND TOGETH-ER FOREVER!


BUT EVEN SO, BELL-DANDY SEEMED HAPPY... SO I CAN'T COM-PLAIN.
HAVE YOU TRIED THE BATH YET...?
I JUST MADE ALL THAT CRAP UP.

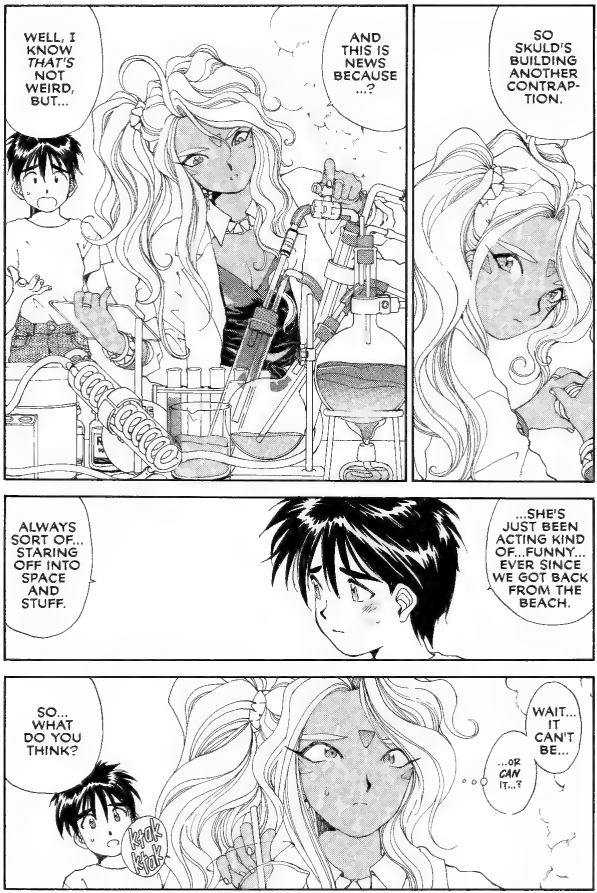
OH... THE FORTUNE?

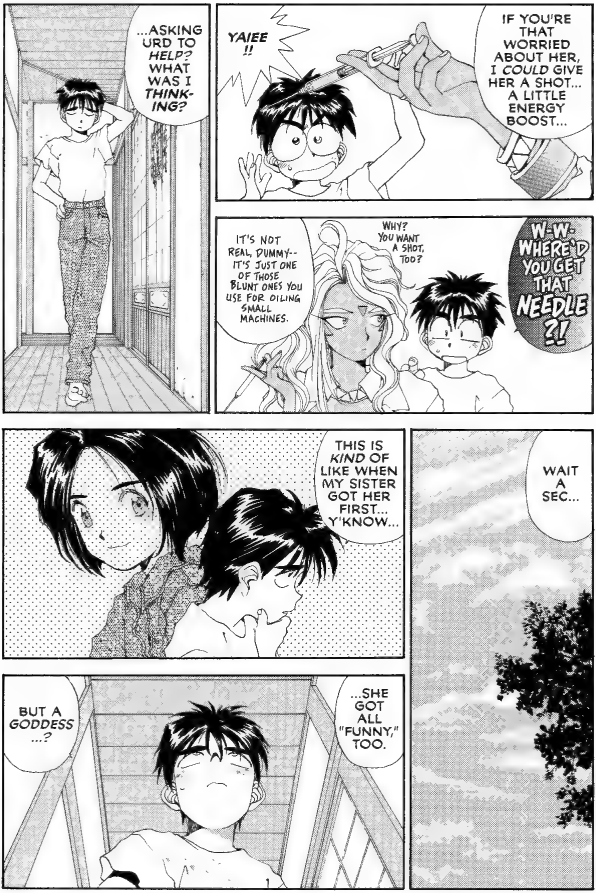
EEEK! KEIICHI ?!
WAIT... ME AND SKULD ...?!

CHAPTER 51

No, Sweetie

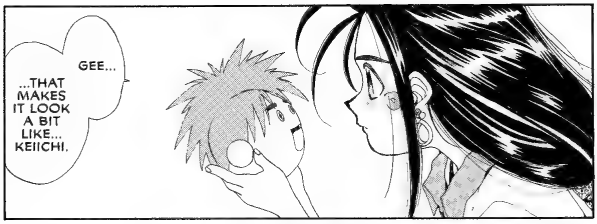
(LONG STARE)

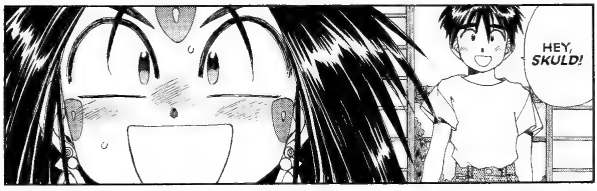

WELL, I KNOW *THAT'S* NOT WEIRD, BUT...
AND THIS IS NEWS BECAUSE ...?
SO SKULD'S BUILDING ANOTHER CONTRAPTION.
ALWAYS SORT OF... STARING OFF INTO SPACE AND STUFF.
...SHE'S JUST BEEN ACTING KIND OF...FUNNY... EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK FROM THE BEACH.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
kruk kruk
WAIT... IT CAN'T BE...
...OR *CAN* IT...?

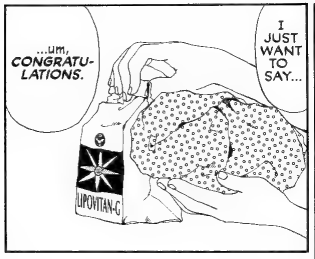

...ASKING URD TO HELP? WHAT WAS I THINK-ING?
YAIEE !!
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HER, I COULD GIVE HER A SHOT... A LITTLE ENERGY BOOST...
W-W-WHERE'D YOU GET THAT NEEDLE ?!
WHY? YOU WANT A SHOT, TOO?
IT'S NOT REAL, DUMMY-- IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE BLUNT ONES YOU USE FOR DILING SMALL MACHINES.
THIS IS KIND OF LIKE WHEN MY SISTER GOT HER FIRST... Y'KNOW...
WAIT A SEC...
...SHE GOT ALL "FUNNY," TOO.
BUT A GODDESS ...?

YES...? WHAT IS IT?
EXCUSE ME... BELL-DANDY?
I THOUGHT SO...
I MEAN, DO YOU GET A... A... P-PER... PERI... umm...
I JUST WONDERED... um... DO YOU GODDESSES HAVE...
?
SORRY. FORGET IT.
...?
....
YOU KNOW... THE "MONTHLIES"

...
KASUGANO PHARMACY
24h
WELL, YOU SEEMED SO NERVOUS, YOUNG MAN...I JUST ASSUMED...
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T NEED YOUR "HAPPY FAMILY PLANNING" KIT!
IN THAT CASE...
STILL, I BET THAT'S IT. SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S THE RIGHT AGE.
HMM...
sighh
MAYBE LIKE... SO...
squeek
squeek


GEE...
...THAT MAKES IT LOOK A BIT LIKE... KEIICHI.


HEY, SKULD!


I JUST WANT TO SAY...
...um, CONGRATU-LATIONS.
LUPUHTAN-C

ah ha ha ha HA! WH-WHAT'S UP?
NOW WHAT?!
STUDY

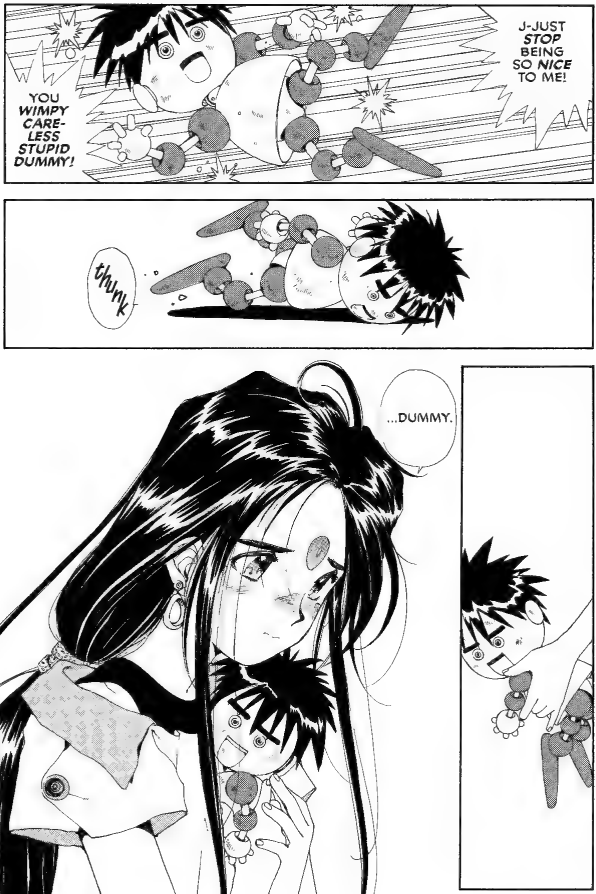
UM... um...
DARN... I KNEW SHE'D ASK...
FOR WHAT?

SO...um... COME ON, EAT UP, AND FEEL BETTER!
I KNOW IT FEELS STRANGE, BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
I DON'T WANT IT.
...?
THROW
OH, COME ON. DON'T BE--
I SAID I DON'T WANT IT!

Y'KNOW, YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO BELL-DANDY ABOUT IT...
KEIICHI! WAI--
...WELL, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BARGED IN.
UH... HA HA!... YEAH, GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP FEELING KINDA IRRITABLE RIGHT NOW...
OH ...!
I'M STILL RATTLED ABOUT THAT OLD COOT AT THE PHARMACY... TRYING TO MAKE ME BUY...
"HAPPY FAMILY PLANNING" ...right.
Ice cream isn't good for your tummy right now. These sweet cakes are called "Yaki". Try them instead! KA

OH WELL... THEY LOOK TASTY.
MY "TUMMY"...? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY STOMACH...
...NOW YOU DO LOOK LIKE KEIICHI!
hee hee
gleam!
WAIT, WHAT'S IN THE OTHER ONE...? "ZOFI" ...?
um... what ...?
"absorb-ent"?
"soft"?

..I LOVE YOU, TOO--
NO! THAT'S WRONG!
HE WASN'T SAYING IT TO YOU!
THIS IS SO STUPID. WHY DO I KEEP THINKING ABOUT HIM...?
WHY ...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!!
AARGH!


YOU WIMPY CARE-LESS STUPID DUMMY!
J-JUST STOP BEING SO NICE TO ME!
thunk
...DUMMY.

NOW ISN'T *THIS* A FINE MESS?
OH, *BOY.*
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN LOVERS IS MY *SPECIALTY*...
...BUT *THIS* TIME, I'LL HAVE TO TEAR ONE DOWN.
....
Happy Family Planning
LATEX
1 DOZEN
HEY, WAIT, THAT GUY *DID* SAY HE GAVE ME A FREE GIFT...
AND AS FOR KEIICHI...
FWIP
FOR BELL-DANDY'S SAKE...AS *WELL* AS SKULD'S.

TAKE YOU SHOP-PING ...?
HUH?
UM...
...YEAH! I DON'T KNOW WHERE ALL THE PARTS SHOPS ARE, SO...
...OK?
Chik Chik
RRMMBRMMB
YES!

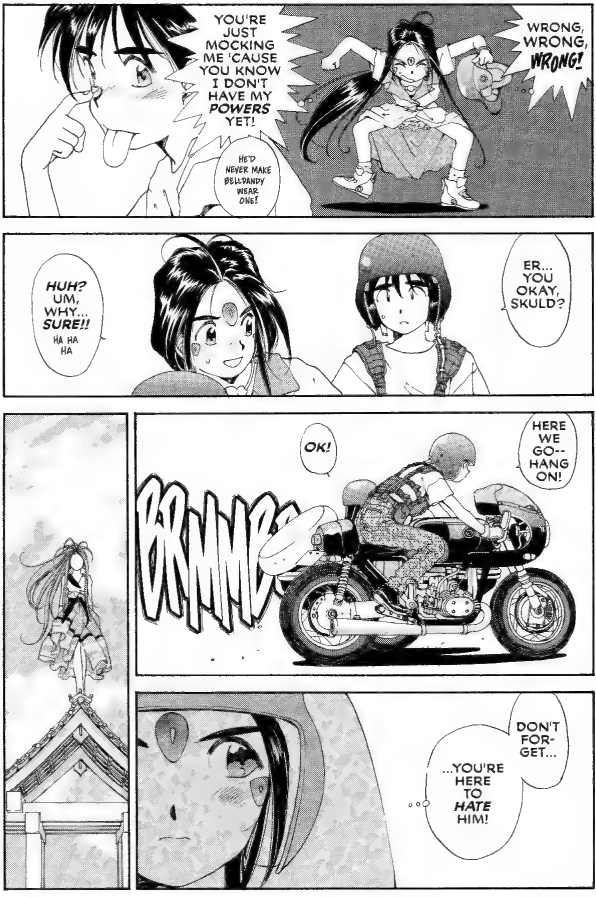
HERE.
?

I'LL PROVE THAT I HATE KEIICHI!
I'LL PROVE IT!

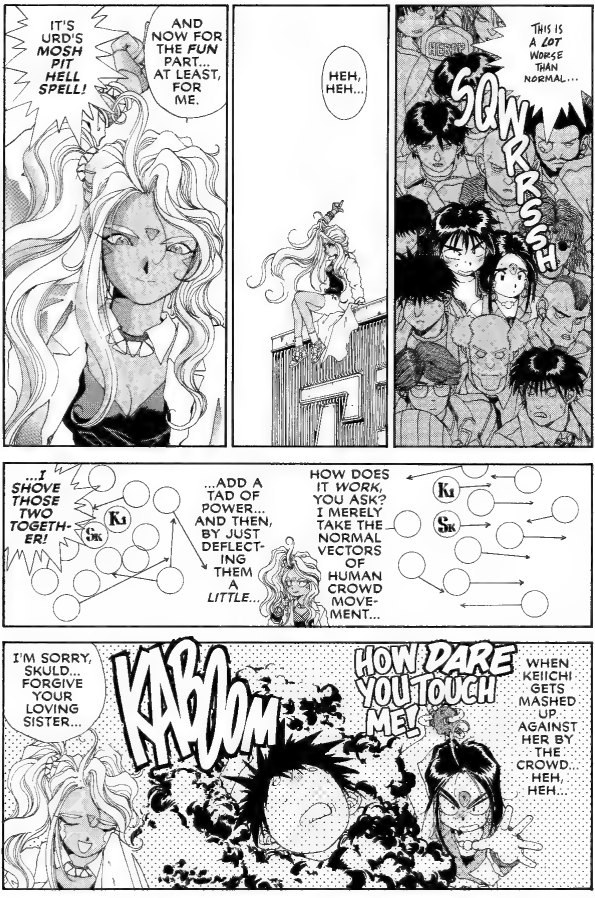
YOU BETTER WEAR ONE, JUST IN CASE. I WOULDN'T WANT YOU GETTING HURT.

OH, KEIICHI... YOU'RE SO KIND... SO THOUGHT-FUL...

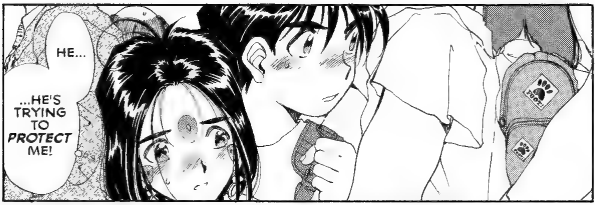
...OH.

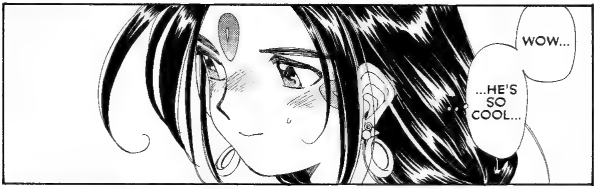

YOU'RE JUST MOCKING ME 'CAUSE YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE MY POWERS YET!
HE'D NEVER MAKE BELLDANDY WEAR ONE!
WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!
HUH? UM, WHY... SURE!! HA HA HA
ER... YOU OKAY, SKULD?
OK!
HERE WE GO-- HANG ON!
BRMMM
DON'T FOR-GET...
...YOU'RE HERE TO HATE HIM!

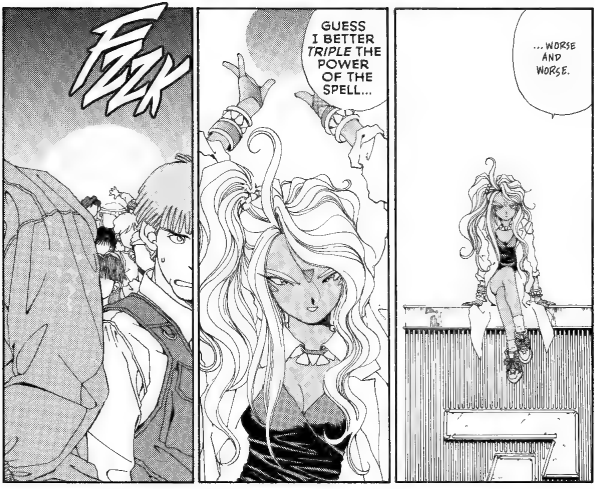
KEIICHI...
GEE... WHY IS IT SO CROWDED?
'CAUSE IT'S SATURDAY.
STILL, EVEN SO...
DOG WOOD PI


IT'S URD'S MOSH PIT HELL SPELL!
AND NOW FOR THE FUN PART... AT LEAST, FOR ME.
HEH, HEH...
This is a LOT worse than normal...
SQWRRSSH
...I SHOVE THOSE TWO TOGETHER!
Ki
Sk
...ADD A TAD OF POWER... AND THEN, BY JUST DEFLECTING THEM A LITTLE...
HOW DOES IT WORK, YOU ASK? I MERELY TAKE THE NORMAL VECTORS OF HUMAN CROWD MOVEMENT...
I'M SORRY, SKULD... FORGIVE YOUR LOVING SISTER...
KABOOM
HOW DARE YOU TOUCH ME!
WHEN KEIICHI GETS MASHED UP AGAINST HER BY THE CROWD... HEH, HEH...

GEEZ, KEIICHI! DON'T PUSH LIKE THAT!
I...I'M *TRYING* NOT TO...
S-STUPID! WHY IS YOUR HEART POUND-ING...
lub-DUP lub-DUP lub-DUP
EEK!
OH, *MAN!*


HE...
...HE'S TRYING TO PROTECT ME!


WOW...
...HE'S SO COOL...


FZZK
GUESS I BETTER TRIPLE THE POWER OF THE SPELL...
...WORSE AND WORSE.

...!
EH?!
HUH? EVERY-ONE'S LEAVING...
tmp tmp tmp tmp
IS SHE HERE, TOO?
AH, HA! BELL-DANDY!
am
SHE'S...
URD, PLEASE... JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
RIGHT NOW, SKULD IS...

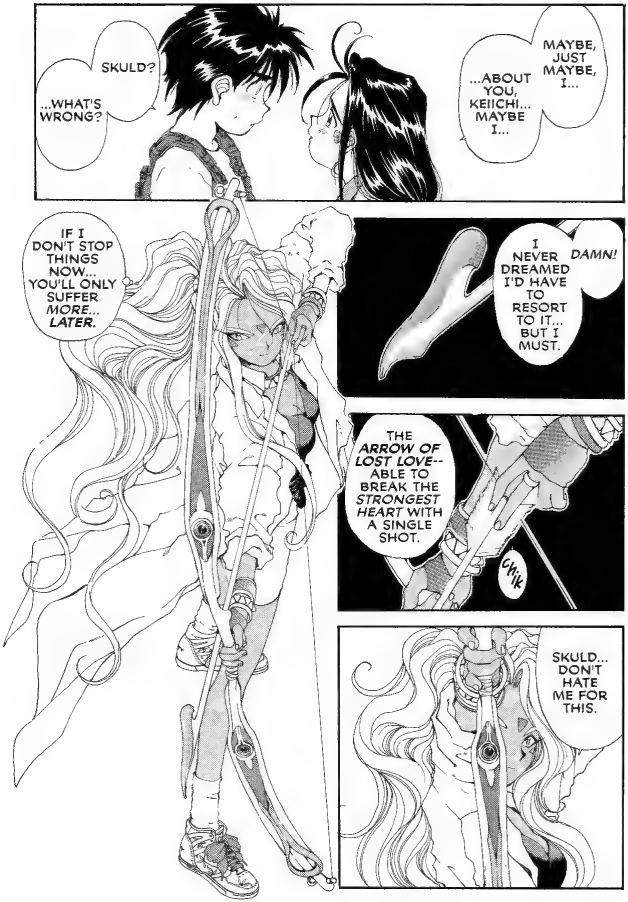
YOU WANT 'EM?
HUH?
WHAT PRETTY TOOLS!
WOW!
TAMAKYU
...HOW ABOUT JUST ONE, OKAY?
um...
STEP-ON WRENCH SET
¥75,000
Step-on
Y-YOU'D REALLY BUY THEM FOR ME?!
WELL, I HOPE THIS'LL CHEER HER UP, ANY-WAY...

HEH HEH!
HUH ?!
WHAT ...?!
HEY!! WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL MY MONEY ?!
huh?
??
FWMP
HMPH!! HE WASN'T EVEN SERIOUS. I DO HATE HIM, AFTER ALL--
I DON'T GET IT...

OH KEIICHI!
AH, HA! IT WAS IN MY PANTS POCKET!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, BELL-DANDY...
...BUT ONCE I START SOME-THING... I NEVER GIVE UP.
...THEN I'LL DO ANYTHING TO BREAK THEM UP!
AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO PROTECT THOSE TWO...

!!
?
AND SO, UNBE-KNOWNST TO THE YOUNG COUPLE...
...THE BATTLE OF THE SIBLINGS RAGED ON.
UNTIL...
I LOVE YOU.
WELL, I GUESS WE BETTER HEAD HOME.

IT CAN'T BE...
WH-WHY?! WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
lub-DUP lub-DUP
lub-DUP
...BUT...
I KNOW IT'S NOT...
KEIICHI...
...IF THAT ISN'T THE REASON... THEN WHY...?
lub-DUP lub-DUP

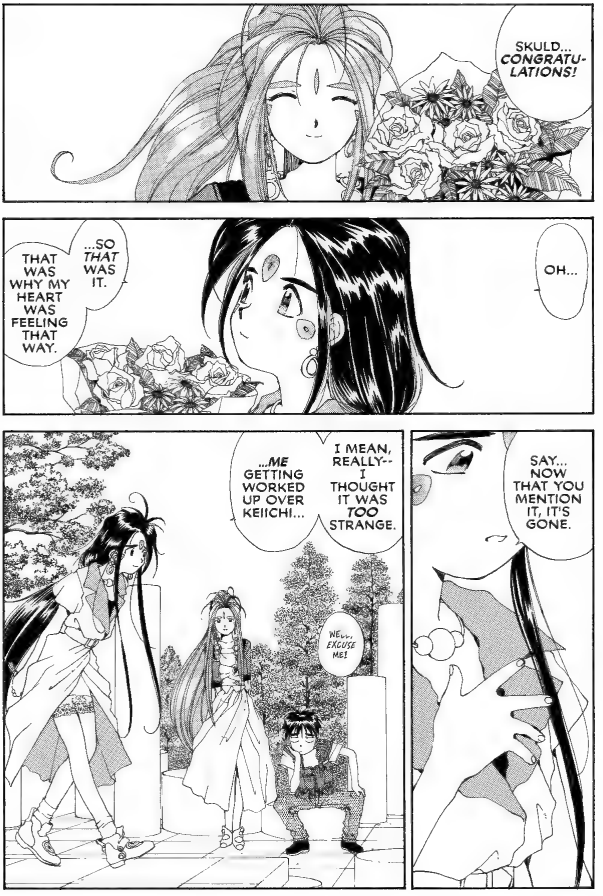

SKULD?
...WHAT'S WRONG?
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, I...
...ABOUT YOU, KEIICHI... MAYBE I...
IF I DON'T STOP THINGS NOW... YOU'LL ONLY SUFFER *MORE*... ***LATER.***
DAMN!
I NEVER DREAMED I'D HAVE TO RESORT TO IT... BUT I MUST.
THE ***ARROW OF LOST LOVE***-- ABLE TO BREAK THE *STRONGEST HEART* WITH A SINGLE SHOT.
CHIK
SKULD... DON'T HATE ME FOR THIS.

TINK
SMASH
ANTI-FORCE SHIELD!
FSH
BEAK

DON'T YOU KNOW I'M TRYING TO PREVENT A TRAGEDY, BELL-DANDY? WHY ARE YOU--
DO YOU WANT TO LOSE KEIICHI?!
AW!
FSH
HEH.. HEH. HEH...
SKULD IS JUST...
YOU'VE MIS-UNDER-STOOD, URD.
YOU WERE BEHIND IT ALL, WEREN'T YOU, URD?!
FREE
...I THOUGHT SO...
...I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON.

OH, GROW UP, SKULD. YOU'VE GOT IT COMPLETELY BACK-WARDS. I--
YOU WERE THE ONE MAKING FUN OF ME...
BAKA !!!

FREAK
HUH ?!
YEEK!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE YOUR TIME.
...WE ALL BECOME A LITTLE EMO-TIONAL.
WHEN IT'S TIME FOR US TO GROW INTO OUR POWER...
THIS MEANS "DUMMY," RIGHT...?
...IT'S NOT COMING OFF.


SKULD... CONGRATULATIONS!
OH...
...SO THAT WAS IT.
THAT WAS WHY MY HEART WAS FEELING THAT WAY.
I MEAN, REALLY-- I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO STRANGE.
...ME GETTING WORKED UP OVER KEIICHI...
WE... EXCUSE ME!
SAY... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S GONE.

KEIICHI?
I...I REALLY WAS... JUST A LITTLE WORRIED.
...I...I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I WOULD HAVE DONE.
HE'S, I JUST GOT MY POWER-- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT.
SKULD! DON'T YOU *DARE* LEAVE WITHOUT ERASING THIS!
I MEAN, IF SKULD *HAD* FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU...
KEIICHI... IF THAT HAD HAPPENED, WOULD YOU HAVE...
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT *SKULD*, RIGHT? NO *WAY* SHE'D EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH *ME!*
AW, THERE'S NO POINT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT, BELL-DANDY.
...

HE'S RIGHT.
...I HATE YOU FOR-EVER!!
KEIICHI...

CHAPTER 52

Ninja Master

GAME
GAMESTOP
YES.
SAGE
WAR-
RIORS.

AWAKE, O NINJA MASTER...
...KODAMA! ...SOWER OF CONFUSION!
LITTLE LEGS THAT RUN LIKE THE WIND!
EYES THAT PIERCE THE DARKNESS!
THE WILLPOWER TO ENDURE ALL ADVERSITY!
--no, wait. THE STRONGEST WARRIOR ON EARTH!
ACCORDING TO THIS VIDEO, A NINJA MASTER IS THE BEST--
HANKAKA VIDEO
THE NINJA MASTER
KRAK
KSSH

NOW GO *FORTH*, NINJA MASTER KODAMA! CAST BELL-DANDY AND HER SISTERS... INTO *THE DEPTHS OF CHAOS!!*
JUST A MOMENT.
SHKK
HOLD ON, JUST A FEW MORE.
WOULD YOU GET A MOVE ON?!
THUP
WHUD
FUMP
CHAK

WHCHOK
THE KODAMA "MIST CUT" RAPID DRAW TECH-NIQUE!
-ARCADE-ALIKE-
ISHIANG
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ATTACK MODE
NORMAL
ANTI-DEMON
SPECIAL
DOOMSDAY
SELF-DESTRU
RUN AWAY
DEFENSE
SMOKE SCREEN
TRACKING
AUTO
SENSORS
OPTICAL
ACOUSTIC
PRESSURE
THERMAL
TARGET ACQUIRED
DEFENSE
SMOKE SCREEN
CONCEAL
EVADE
WARNING!
DANGER!
TARGET LOST

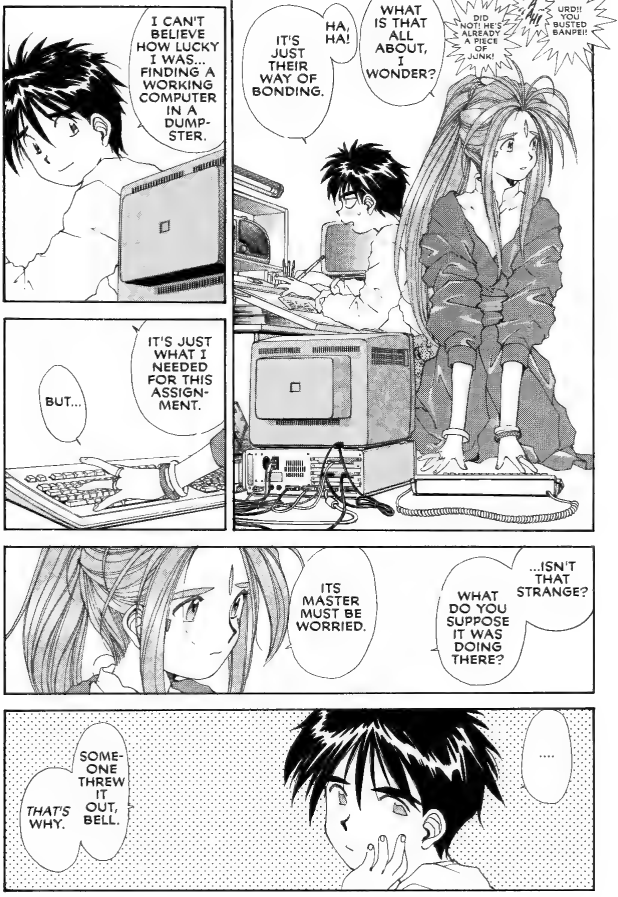
...
...
BORN FROM DARKNESS, DYING IN DARK-NESS...
...THAT IS THE FATE OF ALL NINJA!
....
HYAAH!!

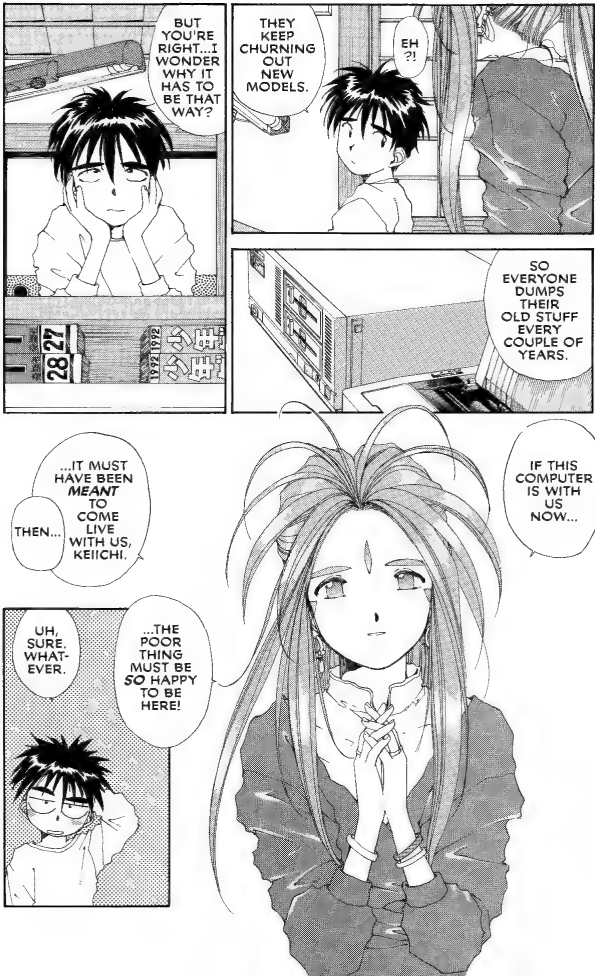
INTERESTING. I HAVE TO WATCH IT AGAIN TOMORROW...
HMM...
....
LEADER! WHAT IS OUR MISSION... OUR DUTY?!
HUH?!
THIS PROGRAM WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS...
KLK
KRLEP
...I CAN LEAVE THE HOUSE TO YOU-- CAN'T I, MINI-BANPEI?
NOW, WITH BANPEI TAKING CARE OF THE GROUNDS...
NOW, THEN...
...WHOSE ROOM IS THIS ...?

BKAM
KUHAK
ATTACK MODE
NORMAL
ANTI-DEMON
SPECIAL
DOOMSDAY
SELF-DESTRUCT
RUN AWAY
HYAA!
SHOOSH
SPRAK

MINI-BANPEI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHSSHT
NOW, I KNOW HOW YOU LOVE YOUR GADGETS, GIZMOS, AND CONTRAP-TIONS...
SKULD!
MOD
STAN
COMB
ATTACK MODE
NORMAL
ANTI-DEMON
SPECIAL
DOOMSDAY
SELF-DESTRUCT
RUN AWAY
ANOTHER F-FAILURE...
...MAYBE ...?
BKOOM

YOU MADE ME DROP THE ONLY SAMPLE OF MY LATEST DRUG!
YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME?!
HEY...
BUT I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE LAST TIME... KEEP THEM TO YOURSELF!
...I'M HAVING A HARD TIME HERE!
HOW DARE YOU!
HOW DARE I?!
GOOD! AT LEAST THAT'S ONE POTION THAT WON'T BE MESSING UP ANYONE'S LIFE!
KENICHI'S SHOP
SO... THESE TWO ARE BITTER ENEMIES.
ONE ADDICTED TO DRUGS...
...AND THE OTHER TO THING-A-MA-JIGS.
HMM.
BZZT
BZZT


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW LUCKY I WAS... FINDING A WORKING COMPUTER IN A DUMPSTER.
IT'S JUST WHAT I NEEDED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.
BUT...
HA, HA!
IT'S JUST THEIR WAY OF BONDING.
WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT, I WONDER?
DID NOT! HE'S ALREADY A PIECE OF JUNK!
URD!! YOU BUSTED BANPEI!!
ITS MASTER MUST BE WORRIED.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WAS DOING THERE?
...ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
....
SOMEONE THREW IT OUT, BELL.
THAT'S WHY.


BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...I WONDER WHY IT HAS TO BE THAT WAY?
THEY KEEP CHURNING OUT NEW MODELS.
EH ?!
SO EVERYONE DUMPS THEIR OLD STUFF EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS.
IF THIS COMPUTER IS WITH US NOW...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN *MEANT* TO COME LIVE WITH US, KEIICHI.
THEN...
...THE POOR THING MUST BE *SO* HAPPY TO BE HERE!
UH, SURE. WHAT-EVER.

AH...!
OOPS!
BEEEP
PAPER JAM...
I'LL GET THAT FOR--
WHY DOES SHE MAKE ME FEEL THIS WAY...?
UH... HA HA!
JUST L-LIKE A MANGA, HUH?

IT... IT'S JUST HER HAND...
BOOMPH
SPARK
ACK !!
OOPS... SORRY ABOUT THAT.
OH, DEAR... I COULDN'T GET A SHIELD UP IN TIME...
OH, NO! MY NEW PRINTER--

SKULD! IF YOU TWO ARE GOING TO FIGHT, DO IT OUT-SIDE!
...
grrr
WE ARE OUT-SIDE!
HEH, HEH... IT HAS ONLY BEGUN.
OH, RIGHT. HOW COME IT'S ALWAYS MY FAULT?!
Belldandy and Keiichi's romance: kindergarten level.
PICKED IT UP? HAW HAW! WHAT A DOPE!
HEY, SO WHAT HAP-PENED?!
KEIICHI PICKED UP MY BOMB!

WHAT...
what...
AHHG !!
URD'S ROOM
KNOW THE POWER OF KODAMA--
Pat Pat
Sluff
--MISTRESS OF CONFU-SION!

...WHAT HAPPENED ...?!
wh...
MY DELUXE SECRET POTION, "KISS OF THE VIRGIN," WAS ALMOST READY...!
heh heh heh
WHO'S THAT ?!
HA HA HA!
IT'S BETTER FOR THE WORLD THIS WAY!
IT'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
IT WAS I WHO DESTROYED YOUR PRECIOUS POTION!!

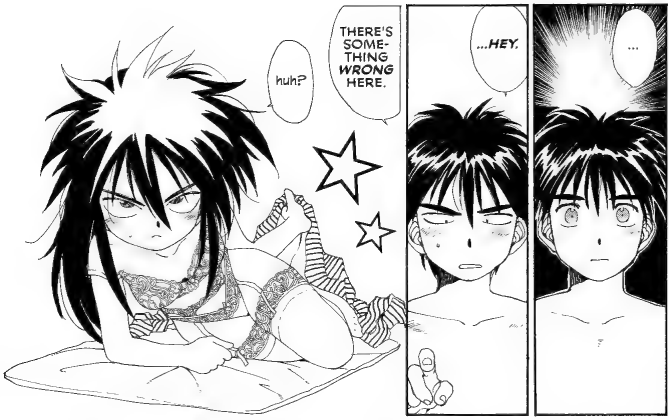
WHA--?
SKULD LABS
SKULD ...!
NYAAA HA HA
boil
seethe
KODAMA NEON LIGHT IMPLOSION SCREEN!
HOPE THIS HAS BEEN "GOOD MEDICINE" FOR YOU, URD!
SPRAK
...FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
I SMASHED THEM ALL TO SCRAP...
NO WAY...
HO HO HO !!
...DRILLER MOLE NUMBER ONE...
...NOT MY HIGH-SPEED SUBTERRANEAN TRANSPORTER UNIT...

RMBBL
YOU NEED TO RELY ON YOUR OWN DEVICES FOR A CHANGE...
HEY !!
KODAMA MASTER TECHNIQUE-- THE CURTAIN OF ROSES!
...HAW! HAW!
FWHOOSH
...URD!
HAW HAW HAW
...I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU... AND I'M NOT HOLDING BACK!!
THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, KID...
I THINK IT'D LOOK BETTER WITH A LITTLE "BAKA"!
HA! WHAT'S WITH THAT INNOCENT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

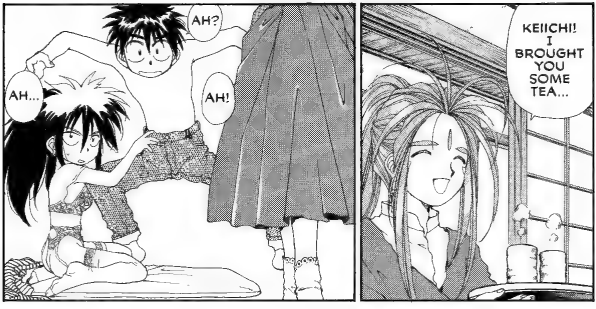
WHAM WHAM SKRAM
grin
SKULD MAGICAL BOMB!
WHY YOU LITTLE--!
DEPTH BOMB DESCENT!
A NINJA MASTER VERSUS TWO AMATEURS...
...NO CONTEST.
ON TO MY NEXT TARGET...
...BUT I'M A LITTLE SMALL FOR THIS, SO...
Chapu's Spirit!!

yikes!
WHRRBB
...WHAT IS IT NOW?
WHRA
BOOM
HELLO, BABY...
YEESH...
WHAT THE...
heh, heh...

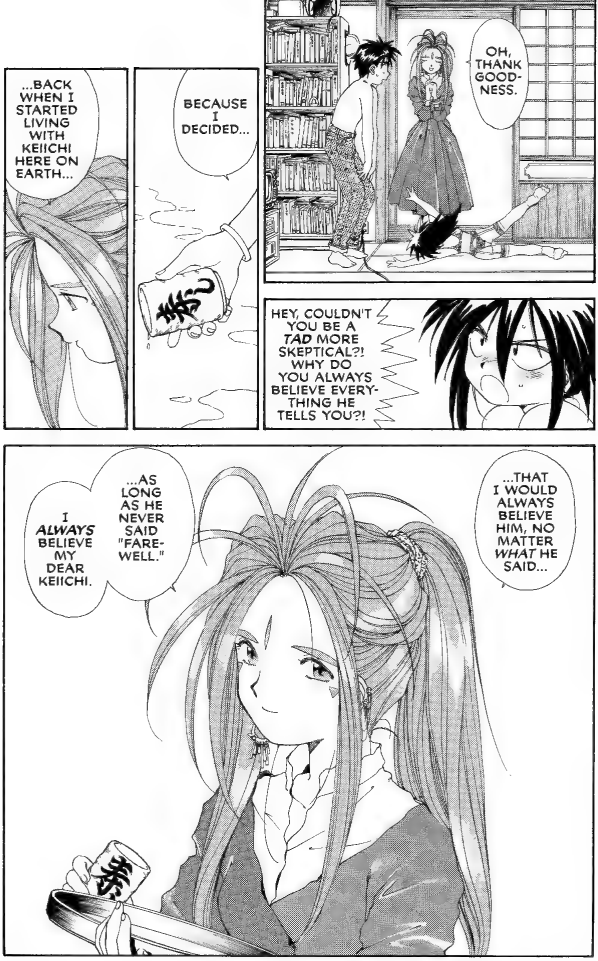
...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I AM THE FOURTH GODDESS.
ME? I AM ONE COME TO BRING YOU JOY.
...COME...
...TO ME...
YESSS...
THAT'S RIGHT... DON'T BE SHY...
Shi'pp
heh, heh
...yeah...
um...
Wobble
SHINGGG


huh?
THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* HERE.
...*HEY.*
...

YOU MAY BE A *GNOME*, BUT YOU SURE AREN'T A *GODDESS!*
ARE *YOU* A NINJA, TOO?!
H-HOW'D YOU BREAK MY SPELL ...?!


AH?
AH...
AH!
KEIICHI! I BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA...

HMM... SOONER THAN I EXPECTED. BUT I CAN WORK WITH IT...
BELLDANDY! AS YOU CAN SEE, KEIICHI HAS ABANDONED YOU FOR THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH!
YOUR PURE, CHILDISH LOVE FANTASY IS FINISHED!
IT'S OVER, BELL-DANDY! IT'S OVER!
UM...
HE DOESN'T WANT YOU ANY-MORE!
SKSSH
BUT--
--BUT ...?!
MUST I LEAVE YOU, KEIICHI?!
PLEASE TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!
OF COURSE IT ISN'T TRUE THAT I...Uh...WELL, EVERY-THING IS A LIE!


...BACK WHEN I STARTED LIVING WITH KEIICHI HERE ON EARTH...
BECAUSE I DECIDED...
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS.
HEY, COULDN'T YOU BE A *TAD* MORE SKEPTICAL?! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE EVERY-THING HE TELLS YOU?!
...THAT I WOULD ALWAYS BELIEVE HIM, NO MATTER *WHAT* HE SAID...
...AS LONG AS HE NEVER SAID "FARE-WELL."
I *ALWAYS* BELIEVE MY DEAR KEIICHI.

heh
FWAP
HA! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH !!
SHOOMP
AND DON'T MAKE ME ILL... LISTENING TO YOUR SUGARY, SAPPY DIALOGUE.
FOR I HAVE ALREADY FAILED IN MY MISSION...
...AND IF I RETURN TO MY MASTER THUS... I SHALL SURELY PERISH.

"MASTER"...? YOU MEAN MARA, RIGHT?
WHAT?!
HOW-- HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?!
!!
WELL...
...SHE'S THE ONLY ONE STUPID ENOUGH TO HAVE HIRED YOU.
...IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH... THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE--
...NO!!

fsssshh
I MUST DIE!!
THIS KODAMA BOMB MAY BE SMALL... BUT IT WILL BLAST ME AND MY SHAME... TO PIECES!
TOO BAD... I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO WATCH THE NEXT EPISODE...
fsssshh
ack!
eep!
fsssshh
WHOOSH

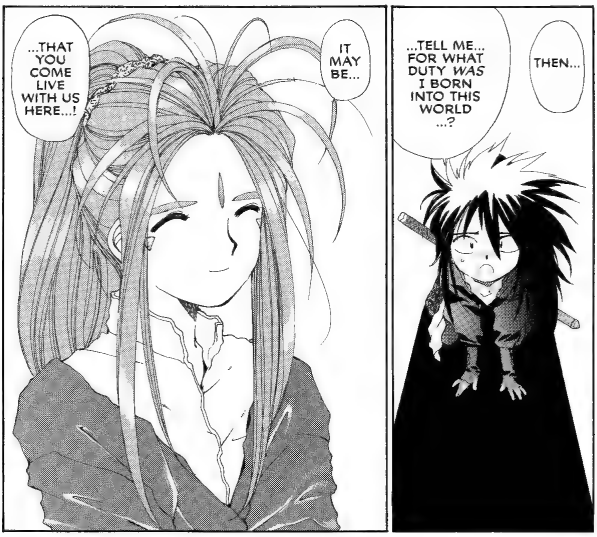
GET BACK! THE BLAST WILL DESTROY YOU...
!?
BUT...
...WHY DO I CARE ...?
Ks hh hh..

...
...huh?
I PROJECTED A SHIELD AROUND YOUR BOMB AND CONTAINED THE EXPLOSION.
NOW, TELL ME...
...WHY WOULD YOU *DO* SUCH A THING ...?

THOU SHALT NOT THROW AWAY THY LIFE IN VAIN!
AS A GODDESS FIRST CLASS, I COMMAND THEE!
ALL CREATURES BORN INTO THIS WORLD ARE INVESTED WITH THE RIGHT TO LIVE.
...AND WITH A DUTY JUST AS WEIGHTY... TO *LIVE* THEIR LIVES TO THE END!

I...

...BORN FROM DARKNESS, DYING IN DARKNESS... IS THAT NOT THE FATE OF ALL NINJA...? IF I CANNOT LIVE AS A NINJA MASTER...
AND YET...
...I OBEY THEE !!


...THAT YOU COME LIVE WITH US HERE...!
IT MAY BE...
...TELL ME... FOR WHAT DUTY *WAS* I BORN INTO THIS WORLD ...?
THEN...

...HAD DETERIORATED INTO A SIMPLE CATFIGHT.
MEANWHILE, URD AND SKULD'S *BATTLE TO THE DEATH*...
YOU BETTER FIX MY *MACHINES*, URD!
OWW*WWW*! YOU'RE PULLING MY *HAIR*!!
BAM
BANG
NOT UNTIL YOU GIVE ME BACK MY *POTIONS*, BRAT!!
PLEASE DON'T *GIGGLE* LIKE THAT, MARA-- IT'S TOO *CREEPY*!
OOH, I CAN'T *WAIT* UNTIL KO-DAMA GETS BACK!
AND AS FOR MA-RA...
tee hee!
"MACHINES" ...?
"POTIONS" ...?

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OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 8
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Right! As promised in Vol. 28, here's Doris Kwan's letter, which we received . . . er . . . *last* February (^^)*

Dear Enchantress,

I love the ongoing *OMG!* series! It's unlike other manga I've liked, which had only about 12 or 15 books in their series, which saddened me a little. I love the way Peorth speaks a tad bit of French, because I'm in French. Though her Frenchness is not really that good. But either way I'm looking forward to the next book of *OMG!*. By the way, I attached some fan art, you may resize it because it's a tad too big. Hope you like it.

Sincerely,
Doris Kwan

Dear Doris,

I loved your illustration of Peorth, and I'm only sorry that we can't print it in color, because the colors are very nice—the light and dark blue on Peorth's dress, and the blending effect on her hair. I also loved her expression and saying "Ah!" as it reminds me of Osaka from *Azumanga Daioh* (although they're pretty much opposite in personality!).

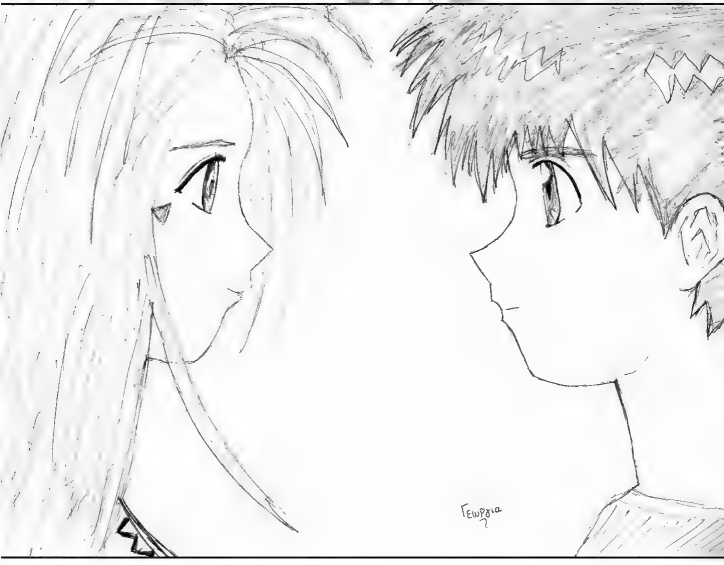
It's true that Peorth's French-ness (and it's definitely "French-ness" rather than "French") isn't really that good. As you may know, in many English-speaking countries, people use (or try to use) French words or phrases to sound sophisticated. This tradition goes back almost a thousand years, since the Norman French under William the Conqueror (or as he called himself, Guillaume le Conquérant) won control over England in the 1060s and 70s. For 300 years after that, French was the official language of government in England, and even today it is used to speak with authority (the terms *defendant, plaintiff, bailiff, tort, mortgage*, and *attorney* are all French words—I knew going to law school would come in handy for in manga), not to mention convey a sense of culture and refinement. All of these are elements that Peorth wishes to project in the original Japanese, so the translator decided to represent it through affectations of French—or French-ness, as you so aptly put it.

Oh, so you want to see this illustration of Doris's, you say? It's on the very next page! And on the three pages after *that*, Georgia Lata, whose work was featured in *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 5, has been nice enough to send some more fan art, all the way from Greece! By the way, I wanted to say that Dana and Christopher Lewis translate every page of this manga except one—the message from Kosuke Fujishima that appears in the early volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* (this time around, it's on p. 187), which is translated instead by Dark Horse's Michael Gombos and Riko Frohnmayer. It's a traditional ritual around here . . .

Peorth by Dor's Kwan

Keiichi by Georgia Lata

Keiichi by Georgia Lata



Keiichi and Belldandy by Georgia Lata

Creator Kosuke Fujishima in 1993!

His message to fans in the original Japanese *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 8:

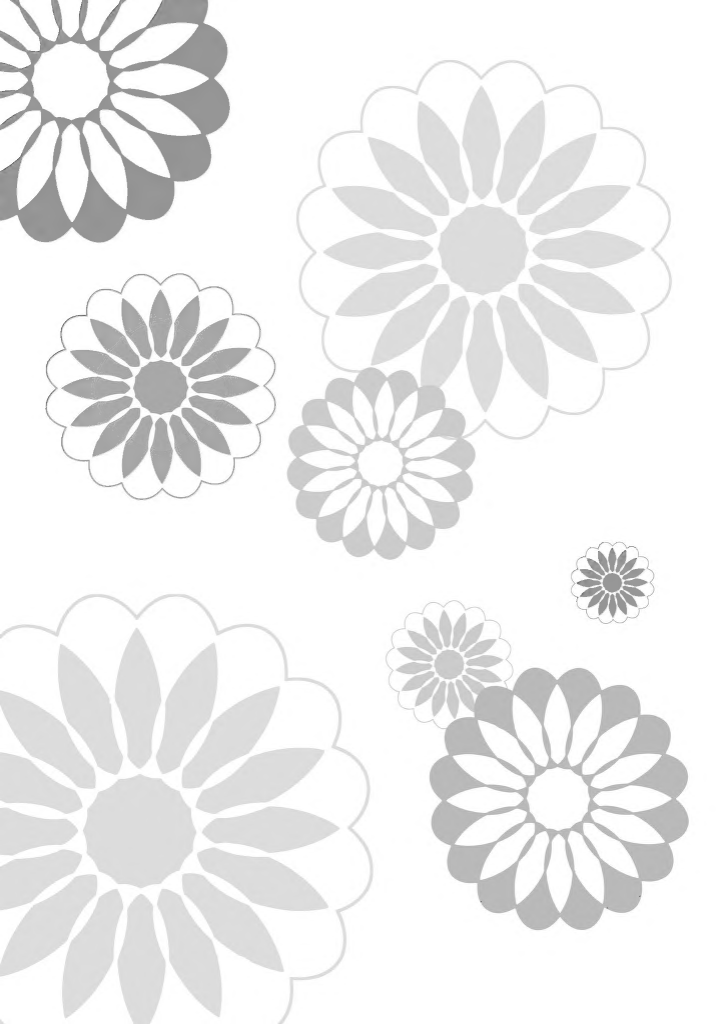
Hello there! How is everyone? It's me, Funky Brian Fujishima! Today, I'd like to introduce you to my wheels—a.k.a., the Mach Wool 100!

Everyone thinks that it's just a lamb, but it's actually a lion in sheep's clothing! While its chassis is really small, once you manage to get on it, it can outmaneuver anything on the streets! All I can see are jealous people, left behind in my dust!

(I wonder how long I am going to keep up with this idiotic charade . . .)

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 8

IT'S A-HAUNTING WE WILL GO . . .

with the N.I.T. Motor Club, as Urd and Belldandy join them on vacation to a mysterious hotel haunted by the g-g-g-ghost of a lovely young maid who wants to hold Keiichi to a promise his *grandfather* made long ago! And between Sora's cruddy cooking and Skuld's funny feelings, the summer is bound to stay too warm for comfort!

Dark Horse's most-requested classic manga is the inspiration for the new anime TV series! Bonus message from creator Kosuke Fujishima, and your letters, plus four pages of interior manga story in color, and twelve Mini-Goddess strips!

DARK HORSE MANGA
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